

Hafa Adai!

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXV, Issue No. 44

WEDNESDAY MARCH 4, 2015

www.saipantribune.com

75¢

A U.S. Air Force C-130H Hercules flies over North Field, Tinian, Marianna Islands, during Cope North 15, Feb. 26, 2015. Photo was provided by the U.S. Force as part of a media release relating to the staging of the Cope North exercise in Guam and the CNMI.

U.S. AIR FORCE/TECH. SGT. JASON ROBERTSON

FAA to look into 'near-collision'

» Star Marianas reports more 'unannounced' military approaches mid-air

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Federal Aviation Administration will look into the "near-miss" between civilian and military aircraft last Wednesday afternoon, when two unidentified military C-130s came directly at and passed unannounced within 300 feet of a Star Marianas twin-engine plane.

"We are presently collecting the necessary data to conduct an investigation which may involve multiple lines of business

within the FAA," said Guam Air Route Traffic Control Center/Radar Approach Control air See FAA on Page 4

Kilili's back surgery successful, doctor says

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) underwent successful surgery on Tuesday morning at George Washington University Hospital to alleviate pressure on his spine.

Dr. Anthony Caputy, who led the surgical team, described the three-hour operation as "completely normal and according to expectation."

The CNMI's four-time delegate to Congress is expected to remain in the hospital for several days recovering from the surgery, according to an official statement.



Sablan

An extended period of home recovery with limited activity will follow before he begins physical therapy to restore a full range of mobility.

Sablan's wife, Andrea, expressed the family's gratitude for the prayers and well wishes of many constituents in the Northern Mariana Islands and other members of Congress and Capitol Hill

See KILILI on Page 4

Man gravely hurt after being hit by truck

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man is now in serious condition after a pickup truck being driven by an alleged intoxicated man hit him as he was crossing Isa Drive in San Vicente on Saturday night.

Manuel Quitano Camacho, 49, sustained several fractured ribs and blood clots in the lungs and brain, police said yesterday.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Travis Hurst said the driver, Rain-

aldo Santos Agulto, 51, was arrested for driving under the influence.

Hurst said that, on Saturday at 8pm, DPS Dispatch was notified about an automobile crash that occurred along Isa Drive in front of the Mobil gas station/Ace Hardware building in San Vicente.

Hurst said investigation showed that Camacho was crossing the street when a blue 1987 Toyota Hilux 4X2 pickup traveling north on the inner lane struck him.

Hurst said Camacho did not use the

designated crosswalk and was crossing in an area with very poor lighting.

Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services arrived at the scene and brought Camacho to the Commonwealth Health Center for treatment.

Traffic officers detected the odor of alcohol on the driver, Agulto, and did a DUI investigation on him.

Agulto was then arrested after he allegedly registered a blood alcohol concentration of .167 percent. The BAC legal limit in the CNMI is .08 percent.

» Driver
arrested
for DUI

INSIDE

WORLD

Iraqi forces launch a large-scale offensive to retake Saddam Hussein's hometown.

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GOOD HOUSEKEEPING

Here's how to sell a house, even if it's in the most undesirable spot.

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LIFE & STYLE

Ming-Na Wen's role in "S.H.I.E.L.D." made her children think she's cool.

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GOT A NEWS
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Local

Tinian terminal improvement contract awaits signatures

By DENNIS B. CHAN
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REPORTER

The Tinian terminal improvement project has been bid out, and the construction contract is now being routed for signature, according to Commonwealth Ports Authority executive assistant Wendi Prater.

Once repaired, the opening of the departure terminal and the renovations to the arrival terminal will allow the separation of incoming and outbound passengers, and would increase the capacity for each terminal.

This would allow CPA to accommodate larger aircraft carrying more passengers.

Prater said that once the contract, performance and payment bonds, and insurance documents are received from the contractor, they will be forwarded to the CIP Office for further execution.

Signatures of the governor, secretary of Finance, and CNMI's Contracting officer are required as this is a 702/CIP-funded project.

"Once it is completely signed off, then notice to proceed will be issued to the contractor and they may commence construction," Prater said.

According to her, terminal improvements include renovations to the existing terminal including doors, windows,

painting, roof repairs and a new baggage conveyor system. Improvements and modifications to the departure terminal include structural retrofitting work, installation of a baggage handling system, construction of an additional restroom and other miscellaneous work.

CPA will also look to complete terminal projects for a brown tree snake containment area and sewer system.

Both projects have a 120-calendar day completion date that begins once the notice-to-proceed for terminal projects has been issued.

"We hope to advertise for bid later this month as soon as

we get a construction manager onboard for the sewer system and the plans for the brown tree snake containment area stamped for construction. The

[CNMI] CIP office's engineers will be stamping the drawings provided," she said.

Prater said that most likely, the terminal improvements will

begin before the other two projects since the bidding process has already been completed. "They can all be done simultaneously though," she added.

begin before the other two projects since the bidding process has already been completed. "They can all be done simultaneously though," she added.

Flaherty: 'Mission accomplished'

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Former chief prosecutor Brian Flaherty left the Office of the Attorney General, where he served a total of two and a half years, with a feeling of "mission accomplished."

Flaherty's last day in office was on Saturday. He joined

OAG in July 2012 as an assistant attorney general, then as chief prosecutor of the OAG's Criminal Division for a year.

Flaherty said he feels his job was done successfully by a team that worked together while he was doing his part to help in the transition to his successor, Leonardo Rapadas.

Flaherty said he was given the job as chief prosecutor and that he feels that his goal has been accomplished. He recalled that he was given a specific task when he was offered the position by then-attorney general Joey Patrick San Nicolas and that was to implement some changes that have been recommended and to prepare for a transition to a new team.

Flaherty said the new attorney general, Edward Manibusan, however, wanted to get his own management leadership team, "which is the right thing for him to do."

"For me and for my history, that kind of job is the kind of job that I enjoy and I see it now as something that I fulfilled that mission," he said.

Flaherty will spend a few days on the island, figuring out his next steps.

"Home is definitely one of the possibilities. But I do love the Commonwealth and I do love Saipan. It's really beautiful," said Flaherty, who is from Iowa.

He said his primary goal over the last three months of his contract with the OAG was to work



Flaherty

toward this transition and to make sure that he could do as much as he could to have the Criminal Division in a place for the new chief prosecutor and for the new AG to take to the next step.

"I'm very excited about what the office will be able to do under the new leadership," he said.

Flaherty said the job of criminal prosecutor in the CNMI is a very important one, and sometimes misunderstood by the public.

"But the people who do the job are very dedicated public servants to the Commonwealth and to justice, to law and order," he said.

Flaherty said he had found his interactions with law enforcement officers, fellow attorneys, and with the courts to be very amicable and very professional.


"I had a very good time working here... the opportunities that were given to me particularly by former AG Joey Patrick San Nicolas and by AG Edward Manibusan," he said.

He stated that the Commonwealth has been a great place for him to enjoy the outdoors and to enjoy its recreational facilities and the beauty of this island.

"I will miss the camaraderie as well," he said.

He said he will miss working with his group at the Criminal Division.

"The attorneys who are here are very good attorneys that can do good things for the Commonwealth," he added.

 COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION SCHEDULE OF ELECTRIC CHARGES AND RATES					
By order of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission, CUC is authorized to adjust the LEAC charge depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" or MOPS monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5% of the average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the LEAC charge. Due to a change in average fuel prices, CUC will adjust the fuel-charge by 7.25%. Accordingly, the LEAC rate has increased from \$0.15959 per kWh to \$0.17108 per kWh effective March 1, 2015 .					
BASE RATES					
	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*	
1 Monthly Customer Charge	\$ 7.00	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00	\$	9.06
2 Base Rates Per kWh:					
	KWH LEVELS				
1) 1 to 350	\$ 0.0210	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1240	\$	0.1070
2) 351 to 1,200	\$ 0.0970	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1240	\$	0.1070
3) 1,201 and over	\$ 0.1580	\$ 0.1130	\$ 0.1240	\$	0.1070
3 Infrastructure Surcharge					
Per kWh -- all usage	\$ 0.0210	\$ 0.0210	\$ 0.0210	\$	0.0210
4 Public Law 16-7 Credit (Rebate)					
Per kWh -- all usage	\$ (0.0230)	N/A	N/A		N/A
*Municipal Pumping					
LEVELIZED ENERGY ADJUSTMENT CLAUSE (LEAC) RATE					
	RESIDENTIAL	COMMERCIAL	GOVERNMENT	MP*	
New LEAC Rate (Effective 03/01/15)	\$ 0.17108	\$ 0.17108	\$ 0.17108	\$	0.17108
Previous LEAC Rate	\$ 0.15959	\$ 0.15959	\$ 0.15959	\$	0.15959
*Municipal Pumping					
PUBLIC STREETLIGHTING AND PRIVATE AREA LIGHTING TARIFF					
Availability: Applicable to public outdoor streetlighting service and private area lighting where CUC owns, maintains and operates such facilities.					
Energy Charge: The energy charge is the kWh multiplied by the sum of the applicable electric base rate and LEAC rate.					
Fixture Charge: See below.					
FIXTURE TYPE	WATTS	KWH/MONTH	FIXTURE CHARGE PER MONTH		
1 Long Arm	250	101	\$	11.67	
2 Short Arm	175	71	\$	8.33	
3 LED	140	57	\$	10.83	
ELECTRIC NON-RATE FEES					
1 Late Charge (monthly)					1% of Past Due
2 NSF Check / Returned Check Charge					\$ 40.00
3 Convenience Fee (for pay-by-phone and online payments)*					\$ 1.50
4 Unauthorized Connection*					\$ 550.00
5 Reconnection at the Pole*					\$ 200.00
6 Investigation (no charge for first two investigations)*					\$ 210.00
7 Disconnection Notice					\$ 15.00
8 Meter Change Out					\$ 95.00
9 New Service - Single Phase					\$ 135.00
10 Inspection of Service (no charge for first two inspections)					\$ 90.00
11 Meter Test - Single Phase					\$ 75.00
12 Meter Test - Three Phase					\$ 110.00
13 Disconnection at the Meter					\$ 45.00
14 Reconnection at the Meter					\$ 60.00
Non-Rate Fees Effective 04/17/14					
*Non-Rate Fees Effective 08/03/14					

CIP, Tinian mayor ink renovation contracts for DPS, health center

By JAYSON CAMACHO
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REPORTER

Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas met with Capital Improvement Projects executives and signed off on a contract funding for renovation of the Department of Public Safety and Tinian Health Center buildings.

San Nicolas signed a \$318,785 contract for the DPS renovation and a \$75,000 contract for THC.

He said renovation work will begin as soon as the contracts are signed by the Office of Procurement and Supply, Department of Finance, and Commonwealth Development Authority.

The renovation for DPS includes internal and external renovations to its headquarters in San Jose, Tinian. Funds for that is through bond interest money from Public Law 17-8, which allows the Tinian Legis-

lative Delegation to tap into the local license fees collected from pachinko slot machines and poker fees in the second senatorial district (Tinian).

"DPS is in need of renovation because of its existing structure that is already getting old," San Nicolas said in an earlier interview.

For the Tinian Health Center, the contractor has to fix the canopy of the director's office that is located at the former Public Health Clinic entrance at THC.

Architectural and engineering analysis of THC has been completed. This analysis examined the current layout of the health center and changes that should be made to accommodate long-term needs.

Immediate repairs to the roofing system, American's with Disabilities Act compliance in at least one bathroom, and other improvements will be addressed. Its construction is currently ongoing.

Small increase in LEAC rate as markets adjust

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced yesterday an increase in the LEAC fuel charge pass-through. Due to a change in average fuel prices, CUC will adjust the fuel-

charge by 7.25 percent and consumers will see an increase in power bills of about 1.1¢ per kWh effective with their March usage.

The current LEAC fuel-

charge of \$.15959 per kWh will move to \$.17108 per kWh. A residential account using 500 kWh will see a bump of \$5.74 per month.

LEAC stands for Levelized

Energy Adjustment Clause and is one of the two components of a power bill.

The LEAC is used for fuel purchases, while the second rate component is the electric base rate, which is used to fund operations, projects, and debt servicing.

In July 2014, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission granted the utility the ability to adjust the LEAC charge depending on the price of oil. Adjustments are made when the "Mean of Platts Singapore" or MOPS monthly pricing equals or exceeds 4.5 percent of the

average per gallon cost of fuel used in the calculation of the LEAC charge.

The CPUC conducts periodic reviews of CUC's fuel charges to ensure that consumers pay no more or less than the actual cost of fuel.

CNMI consumers have experienced almost 45 percent decline in the LEAC since mid-2014. (CUC)

Cape Air woes continue

Cape Air flight cancellations have continued into Tuesday from Friday last week, making that almost a week since flights have been up and running.

Cancelled flights will contin-

ue into today.

Yesterday, United Airlines provided an extra flight on a Boeing 737-800 to accommodate passengers. Cape Air and United are code-share partners,

with Cape Air providing the Guam-Saipan flights of United passengers traveling to the Commonwealth.

The recent stretch of cancelled flights recall the rash of cancelled flights in the middle months of last year due to technical issues. United flew accommodating flights at that time as well.

Flights on Cape Air's ATR42 aircraft were cancelled "following a continued technical issue that is currently being addressed," according to the carrier.

"We will continue to provide updates on the anticipated return to service," Cape Air said

in a statement yesterday.

"United will operate an extra flight today and tomorrow, using a Boeing 737-800 aircraft to accommodate the affected passengers. UA2070 is scheduled to depart Guam on March 3 at 8:30pm and is expected to arrive at Saipan at 9:10pm. Then the flight is scheduled to depart Saipan at 9:55pm and arrive at Rota at 10:33pm. This flight is scheduled to depart Rota at 11:18pm and arrive at Guam at 11:52pm. UA2071 is scheduled to depart Guam on March 4 at 9:30am and is expected to arrive at Saipan at 10:10am. Then the flight is scheduled to depart

Saipan at 11:05am and arrive in Guam at 11:45am.

"Our support teams in Guam, Saipan and Rota are providing assistance to passengers to make the necessary arrangements for them to complete their travel. We realize this is an inconvenience to our customers and we apologize for the disruption," Cape Air said. (Dennis B. Chan)

SIDE BAR

Flight cancellations draw ire of lawmakers

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

The cancellations of flights by Cape Air drew the ire of CNMI lawmakers who are now demanding that the airline operator give a more detailed explanation for the cancellations.

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (R-Rota) said her office has received many complaints on the cancellations and "poor customer" service by Cape Air crew in Guam.

The senator said she has sent a letter to David Baker, the regional director of Cape Air/United Express Micronesia, detailing the complaints and asking for an explanation.

According to Santos, Baker has replied to her letter and promised to bring the matter to the airline management.

The lawmaker said these cancellations and poor service "might be an opportunity for the CNMI to explore engaging the services of other airlines." She noted that "less fortunate passengers such as the CNMI

Medical Referral patients are at most impacted by this issue."

Rep. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan) said the executives of the airline should come to the CNMI and "face the music" instead of just issuing press releases.

"They are not being fair," the lawmaker said, adding that he does not see the logic why ticket prices continue to rise every time an airplane breaks down.

"If the airline really cares, then they should take every opportunity to come to Saipan and explain why they are having these issues," Guerrero said, adding that the stipend being given to stranded passengers is also not enough.

Cape Air flight cancellations have continued into Monday from last weekend, after flights were canceled last Friday, reportedly due to a technical issue with their aircraft.

Yesterday, United Airlines provided an extra flight on a Boeing 737-800 to accommodate passengers. Cape Air and United are code-share partners.

Solar energy firm eyes \$7M investment on Saipan

By JOEL D. PINAROC
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REPORTER

A company based in Guam plans to set up an office on Saipan to offer solar panels to residents.

Jeffrey Voacolo, vice president of Micronesia Renewable Energy, Inc., said the company is planning to set up an office in the Commonwealth in "two to three weeks" and put in staff.

He said the company is also looking for office space and a warehouse.

Voacolo also said Sunnova Energy Corp., the mother company of Micronesia Renewable Energy, plans to invest \$7 million or more in setting up the Saipan office.

"Sunnova invested \$7 million to set up the office in Guam. We are looking at investing the same, if not more, for Saipan," Voacolo said.

Listed company Sunnova Energy Corp. is one of the largest solar services companies in the U.S. and is based in Houston, Texas.

Voacolo said Micronesia Re-

newable Energy is eyeing to target residents and not business entities on Saipan.

He said this is also the company's business model in Guam, where it currently has an installed base of close to 200 residents.

"We see that there is demand and potential [on] Saipan," Voacolo said, noting that solar panels could be one of the alternatives to alleviate high electricity rates on the island.

He emphasized that beyond the solar solutions, the company is also coming in to hire local staff and conduct training sessions in the CNMI.

The use of renewable energy is not new in the CNMI. In fact, a net metering law has been signed by government last month specifically for the health and education sectors.

In 2014, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. announced that its \$40-million contract for a solar energy project was underway. American Capital Energy was awarded the exclusive right to negotiate a solar power purchase agreement with CUC in 2011.

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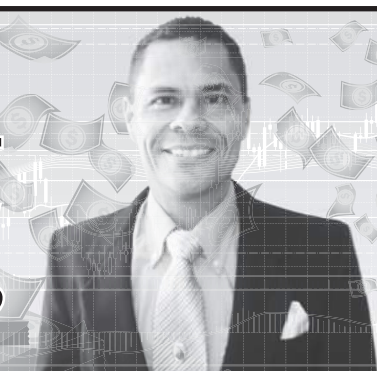
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Rapadas: Zero tolerance for domestic violence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Newly sworn in Chief Prosecutor Leonardo M. Rapadas promised zero tolerance for domestic violence under his watch.

In an interview, Rapadas said as long as there is evidence of family violence or domestic violence, there will be an arrest, there will be charges, and that the Office of the Attorney General's Criminal Division will take that case to court.

"I have zero tolerance for family violence because it's not just between the two—the husband, wife, boyfriend, girl-

friend," he said.

In some cases, Rapadas said, the youngest, the weakest of the family, is the one that gets hurt because they see the harm that is happening within the family.

"They see Daddy hitting Mommy, Mommy crying. Mommy's staying with Daddy because of various reasons," he said.

Rapadas said domestic violence cases are different because the dynamics are different versus, for example, a bar fight.

"That's different than two people who are supposed to love each other and care for each other, [yet] are harming

each other," he said.

In the old days, he said, domestic violence was the last thing police officers wanted to go to because people in general believed that that was something to be kept within the family.

Rapadas said they have come to know after many years of prosecuting that that kind of attitude causes problems within the family structure and ultimately, in the worst-case scenarios, death in some cases.

Because of that, he said, there will be zero tolerance during his term as chief prosecutor.

On the other hand, Rapadas

underscored the importance for his administration to follow what his predecessor did, which was building a better relationship with law enforcers.

He said the OAG does not make cases as that is the role of the law enforcement agencies that surround them.

"If the law enforcement agencies don't bring us cases, then we don't have anything to charge," said Rapadas, adding that one of the things that he needs to do is to continue building a good relationship with law enforcers.

He said they're trying to work out a system where they get more cases back into the OAG's Criminal Division.

Chief Prosecutor Leonardo M. Rapadas poses with his wife, Attorney General Edward Manibusan, and the staff of the Office of the Attorney General during his swearing in at the CNMI Supreme Court on Monday afternoon.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

KILILI

From Page 1

staff who work with the congressman.

Sablan filed for a leave of absence on Feb. 20, citing the need for the surgery on his back.

Sablan earlier said that shuttling back and forth between the Commonwealth and Washington, D.C., in the last six years took a heavy toll on his back.

The lawmaker said he will

"not be able to keep a full schedule" at the House of Representatives during his recovery period, but he will try to keep in touch through email and telephone.

Sablan just recently begun his fourth term as the CNMI nonvoting representative to the 114th House of Representatives.

He was sworn in last January and is the first and only official ever to represent the people of the CNMI in Congress. **(Joel D. Pinaroc)**

FAA

From Page 1

traffic manager Tim Cornelison yesterday.

The FAA was notified of the incident by Star Marianas on Feb. 27.

When asked to identify the C-130 planes, Cornelison acknowledged the concerns the community may have but indicated it would be "premature" to release any specific information at this time.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority declined to comment on the near-miss report because the event is "not within their jurisdiction," according to executive director

Maryann Lizama yesterday.

She indicated that because the event occurred between civilian and military aircraft "in the air," CPA has no way to ascertain the events that took place.

She indicated that this would fall under the FAA's jurisdiction. "I trust that an investigation should have already commenced," she said.

The incident reportedly happened as a Star Marianas pilot was about 1 mile offshore coming across the channel from Saipan toward Tinian. The pilot was flying passengers at the 1,500 feet standard altitude and routing flown by Star Marianas, and was still within the Saipan tower's airspace, or Delta airspace, ac-

cording to Star Marianas.

The first C-130 was followed by another C-130, which was slightly off the lead C-130's left wing, it was reported. Both planes had nose-high altitude and were climbing in the pilot's direction—right through the standard altitude and routing flown by commercial planes between the islands.

Star Marianas reported the incident to the FAA in Guam as a "near midair collision," or NMAC. They assert that both C-130s had violated the requirement to establish communication with the Saipan tower prior to entering the Delta airspace, because both civilian and military were "clearly inside the Delta airspace when

the incident occurred."

"I called tower and reported that a C-130 was coming at me and stated it passed within about 300 feet of my aircraft and asked if they knew about that aircraft being there. They stated that they had not known and that the aircraft had just called them," the Star Marianas pilot had said.

'Unannounced'

Also last Wednesday, another one of Star Marianas' single-engine Cherokee pilots was "surprised by how close a C-130 passed by him without making any radio announcements for positions or intentions," according to STAR Marianas president Shaun Christian yesterday.

The C-130 passed with more than 500 feet separation, Christian said.

"But again [it] was a surprise to our pilot that the military aircraft was not following recommended communication protocols," he added.

Christian also said that on Feb. 17 on Rota, an Australian C-130 had pulled onto the runway while he was on "about a one half mile final [landing] and 300 feet off the ground."

The C-130 did this "without making any announcements or checking to see if there was anyone in the traffic pattern," he said. It resulted in Christian having to "go-around" or essentially reject his landing to avoid any potential collision.

According to Christian, both events happened outside Class D, or Delta airspace, "so there was no regulatory requirement to establish communications with a tower or Guam Center."

"But standard [or] recommended best operating practices are to announce your position and your intentions at regular intervals over the established CTAF [Common Traffic Advisory Frequency], which was not being done by the military aircraft in either case," Christian said.

These incidents come amid reports of increased military presence in the CNMI. The reported military aircraft are believed to have been a part of last month's Cope North exercise.



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JKPL board decision on Gonzales this week or next

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Joeten Kiyu Public Library board of directors met yesterday afternoon to discuss the fate of the library’s executive director, John Oliver Gonzales.

In an interview with JKPL board chair Mark Rabauliman yesterday evening, he confirmed

that board members informally met yesterday at 3pm to almost 5pm but no decision was made whether to retain Gonzales or ask for his resignation.

“We will be probably reach a decision by the end of this week or the start of next week,” he said.

Rabauliman said that board members heard Gonzales and the JKPL staff that had been

asking for his ouster.

He said the issue would also be discussed with other agencies, especially on personnel matters.

Rabauliman said he couldn’t disclose particulars due to personnel matters being confidential.

“We’re trying to make sure not to overstep our actions until further clarified,” he said.

He said the temporary compromise where JKPL staff will continue work while Gonzales remains at home stays in place.

In the meantime, Gonzales was required to finish and submit JKPL’s budget request to the government and Rabauliman confirmed that the embattled JKPL executive director did so last Friday.

“We’re continuing to put things in place so that a resolution can be in place,” he said.

Board members intervened last Feb. 18 after library employees were found sitting outside the JKPL’s parking lot and refusing to enter the library and resume work.

The staff walkout was reportedly triggered by a shout-

ing match between an employee and Gonzales during an informal staff meeting in the morning.

Staff alleged that they walked out because of a “climate of fear.” Other allegations included Gonzales obtaining information from the transition report of staff comments that were supposed to be confidential.

Fish and Wildlife conservation officer arrested

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_deltorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Police arrested on Monday Division of Fish and Wildlife conservation officer Marvin Rodney Pangelinan, who allegedly poked a finger on the neck of a female cashier for no apparent reason, then threw six unopened beer cans at her for confronting him at Payless Supermarket in Chalan Kanoa.

Pangelinan, 43, was served with an arrest warrant in Lower Base for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set yesterday at \$25,000 cash. Preliminary hearing is on March 12.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer was appointed to serve as counsel for Pangelinan. Assistant attorney

general Emily Cohen appeared for the government.

Police detective Dee Liza S. Udui stated in her report that a police officer was dispatched to Payless Supermarket last Feb. 22 due to a disturbance reported at 9:16am.

The victim told the officer that a male customer walked behind her counter and pinched her neck for no reason.

When the customer later went up to the counter with six cans of beer, the cashier confronted him that he has no right to pinch her neck or touch her.

The suspect, later identified as Pangelinan, said some profanities at her and threw the six cans of beer toward the counter, hitting her stomach and feet. Still allegedly uttering profanities, Pangelinan

walked out of the store and got into a pickup truck with license plate ACM-234.

When the officer reviewed the surveillance camera, he identified the customer as Pangelinan, an employee of the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

Udui said the victim stated that she was assisting a customer when Pangelinan passed her counter and poked his finger on the left side of her neck. The cashier said she didn’t know who

Pangelinan was.

The cashier said when she later confronted Pangelinan, he badmouthed her and stated he does not care. He then allegedly threw the six cans of beer toward her.

“F___k you, who you think you are? Call anybody, call your boyfriend. I don’t give a damn!” Pangelinan was allegedly quoted as saying.

When police presented a photo lineup, the cashier identified Pangelinan.

Apatang asks Rotary for help in beautifying Saipan

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang asked Rotary Club of Saipan members to back up the Saipan Mayor’s Office’s campaign to beautify the island during the Rotary Club’s weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan yesterday afternoon.

Apatang, who was accompanied by field operation director Joan Aquino and Dog Control Program manager Spencer Marchadesch, was the guest speaker in yesterday’s meeting and he took the opportunity to update the Rotary Club of his office’s projects and programs.

Apatang asked Rotary members to assist in beautifying the island by helping pick up trash whenever it is seen.

Apatang said he will also push through with the late Saipan mayor Donald G. Flores’ Sunset Project Garden along Beach Road and asked Rotary members to help in

the beautification project.

Apatang hopes to finish the project within three months.

“One of the duties of the mayor of Saipan is to clean up and beautify the island. As you know when I go out in the newspaper all I say is ‘beautification,’ and I need your help too as Rotarians and your businesses. I am writing to each business all along the villages and roads to help me clean up the islands,” he said.

“As you drive along the villages you’ll see all these trash. If [the dumpster] is full, they’ll just throw them on the outside of the trash can and all those trash will start flying, so I will need your help and work together,” he added.

Apatang also gave an overview of each program that is administered by his office and his future plans. Some of these projects include continuing the relationship of cultural exchange students from Japan and Korea, providing secondary road cleanup, and village and residential cleanups.



Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang gives an overview of projects currently in place with the Mayor’s Office yesterday at the Rotary Club of Saipan’s weekly meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.



COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 502149, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 234-6245/6293/7145/7146 • Fax: (670) 235-7147
Email: administration@cda.gov.mp • Website: www.cda.gov.mp



AMENDED
NOTICE OF AUCTION
UNDER NOTE & SECURITY AGREEMENT

Notice is hereby given, that pursuant to that certain Security Agreement (Chattel Mortgage) The Commonwealth Development Authority will hold an auction on used Trikes.



The auction shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

- The items are being sold **“AS IS”** and **“WHERE IS”**;
- The items are being sold **WITHOUT WARRANTY** of any type;
- The public auction will be held at CDA Conference Room, 1st Floor of the CDA Building in Oleai, Saipan on **Friday, March 6, 2015 at 2:00 pm.**;
- The Buyer at auction will be responsible for removing the items at the day of sale;
- Terms of the sale are cash, credit card* (Master Card and Visa only) or certified check; and
- CDA reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withdraw this notice and postpone the sale from time to time.

**credit card payments are charged additional 2% above sale price for processing fee.*

Full payment of the bid amount is required before the property can be removed from the CDA Office. Payment must be received before end of business day, 4:00 p.m. Friday, March 6, 2015. Failure to make full payment will cause award to be null and void and the next highest bid will be considered.

The Trikes will be available for inspection on Wednesday, February 25, 2015 at the rear parking lot of CDA Building in Oleai. For Inquiries, please contact CDA at 234-6245 ext. 304, 307, 309 or 310.



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 15-DCCA/NAP-056

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 30, 2015 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“COMPUTER MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS – DIVISION OF N.A.P.”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S



PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT



INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 15-DCCA/NAP-057 (A-C)

SUBMISSION/OPENING DATE: MARCH 30, 2015 TIME: 10:30 A.M.

“TO PURCHASE SIX (6) REFRIGERATORS, SIX (6) RECTANGULAR PLASTIC FOLDING TABLES AND THIRTY-SIX (36) FOLDING CHAIRS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS – DIVISION OF N.A.P.”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE COMMONWEALTH RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS AND PROPOSALS; IN WHOLE OR IN PART, AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A BID IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL BIDS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ LAURA T. OGUMORO
SECRETARY OF DC&CA

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Name: Piao, Yinhua
Mailing Address: PMB 1474
Box 10002 Saipan MP 96950
Telephone No.: 287-7789

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of) FCD CN
the Petition for the) CIVIL ACTION
Change of Name of:) NO. 15-0096
)
Z.H.L.) **NOTICE OF
Minor Child’s) HEARING**
Initial / (d.o.b.))
)
By:)
Yinhua Piao)
Petitioner)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 4/2/2015, at 10:30 a.m. in Courtroom 205A, before Honorable Kenneth L. Govendo.

Dated this 25th day of February, 2015.

Patrick V. Diaz
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Thursday, March 5, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. at the Mayor’s Conference Room, 1st floor, in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY

- Call to Order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Agenda
- Adoption of Minutes

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS¹

III. EXECUTIVE SESSION²

IV. NEW BUSINESS

- Review & Approval of spring 2015, Academic Year 2014-2015 Scholarship Applicants (continuation)
- Start amendment on current policy (continuation)
- Disbursement schedule of spring 2015 recipients

V. MISCELLANEOUS MATTER

VI. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

VII. ADJOURNMENT

**/S/ JULIAN U. HOFSCHEIDER
Chairman**

¹ We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

³ Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

NMC presents budget request; lawmakers tour campus

Officials of the Northern Marianas College discussed their \$8.481 million budget request for fiscal year 2016 with members of the Legislature in the college's room D1 yesterday.

The college also presented some of the "belt-tightening" cost reductions they have made due to a limited budget, among other things.

Before lunch, members of both the Senate and House toured the campus. College of-

ficials highlighted some of their "facility challenges" during stops at the college's nursing building, computer and science lab, for example.

During the budget presentation, Sen. Sixto Igisomar (R-Saipan) asked the college to further prepare data for the "whole picture" of the college's costs so that members of the Legislature would have a better "visual aid" of what they are working with come budget season.

Aside from the money it gets from the local government, NMC also gets an average of \$4.9 million in federal funds every year.

The college's new budget request includes costs for personnel, utilities, and the mandatory Public Auditor's mandatory 1 percent.

Some 61 percent of the budget goes to wages and salaries.

The college has included overload and adjunct costs

for the first time. Historically, they paid this out of revenue from tuition and fees.

The college requests funding for 136 full-time positions, which translates to some \$6.14 million in wages, salaries, and benefits.

The college also requests that five FTEs be reinstated. They are two business instructors; a science, health, math, and athletics instructor; an enrollment coordinator; and program manager for workforce investment.

Historically, the college asks for about \$8 million to \$9 million from the Legislature

every year, according to chief financial officer Tracy Guerrero yesterday.

They were appropriated about \$4.4 million in fiscal year 2015 and \$4.1 million in fiscal year 2014.

From 2007 to 2015, they have never been funded more than \$5 million. **(Dennis B. Chan)**

Man allegedly hits girlfriend on head with Hawaiian sling

An intoxicated man allegedly beat up his girlfriend and hit her head with a Hawaiian sling at their residence in Kagman I on Sunday night.

The victim sustained a 4- to 5-centimeter-long laceration on the top of her head. Medics brought her to the Commonwealth Health Center's emergency room.

Marcil Barao, 50, was arrested for assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. His bail was set yesterday at \$20,000 cash. Preliminary

hearing is on March 10.

Assistant public defender Matthew Meyer was appointed as counsel for Barao. Assistant attorney general Emily Cohen appeared for the government.

Police detective Nicholas A. Rabauliman stated in his report that Barao and his girlfriend had been drinking at their neighbor's house in Kagman I on Sunday. Barao allegedly got mad when the victim said they needed to go home as he was already drunk.

Once they arrived home,

Barao allegedly slapped and punched the victim in the face. He also allegedly hit her with the Hawaiian sling on the head, causing her to fall.

Barao then ran away when he learned the police had been called. Their neighbors then called the medics.

A police officer later found Barao sitting on the ground inside an abandoned house located in the bushy area behind their house. The officer arrested Barao, who had a swollen right cheek and scratches on it. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

Guam USCIS office moving to new location

GUAM—The Guam U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office is moving to a new address: 770 East Sunset Blvd., Suite 185, Barrigada, Guam 96913.

As of Thursday, March 5, 2015, the USCIS office currently located at Sirena Plaza, Suite 100, 108 Hernan Cortez

Avenue Hagatna, Guam, will be permanently closed. USCIS services will resume at the new location on East Sunset Blvd. on Wednesday, March 11, 2015.

Appointments may be scheduled online at infopass.uscis.gov or by calling the National Customer Service Center at

1-800-375-5283. For additional information about the Guam office, visit <http://www.uscis.gov/about-us/find-uscis-office>.

For more information about USCIS and its programs, please visit www.uscis.gov or follow us on Twitter (@uscis), YouTube (/uscis) and the USCIS blog *The Beacon*. **(USCIS)**

Water outage related to Agag waterline project

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. is alerting all customers in the areas served by the Agag Reservoir service area—As Teo, Capital Hill, Wireless Ridge, Talafofo, Isa Drive, Papago, Puerto Rico, and Garapan—that the Agag tank will be taken out of service for about five hours

on Monday, March 9, from 8am to about 1pm

Work on the waterline replacement in the As Teo area requires that the existing tank be taken out of service for several hours.

"We would encourage those that have water tanks and cis-

terns to take any needed steps to store water before the outage," the corporation said in a statement. "CUC apologizes in advance for any inconvenience resulting from this project. Please direct inquiries to the CUC Water Division at 322-5030/31." **(PR)**

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NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING

ON AN APPLICATION FOR A QUALIFYING CERTIFICATE AUTHORIZING THE ABATEMENT AND REBATE OF CERTAIN CNMI TAXES

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that:

A. Public hearing. In accordance with the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and pursuant to the rule-making procedures of the Administrative Procedures Act, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will conduct a public hearing at the Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, Susupe, Saipan, on Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at 10:00 a.m. on the application of Saipan International Real Estate Developer Corp. Ltd. dba Ocean Vista Resort, Applicant, for a Qualifying Certificate, which request is for tax relief by way of abatement and rebate of CNMI taxes in consideration of Applicant's proposed resort hotel, all pursuant to the Investment Incentive Act of 2000, as amended, and as set out in the Applicant's application for a Qualifying Certificate.

B. Nature of hearing. This hearing shall be open to the public. Oral or written statements will be received from anyone wishing to testify thereat, which statement will be incorporated into the records of the hearing.

C. Further information. For further information, please contact CDA at the above telephone numbers or visit its offices at the CDA Building in San Jose, Saipan.

/s/ Manuel A. Sablan
Executive Director

PDM collects 1,540 lbs of trash



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Paseo de Marianas Promoters Inc. members pose for a group photo after collecting 1,540 lbs of trash last Saturday in the Garapan tourist district.

Paseo de Marianas Promoters, Inc. collected a total of 1,540 lbs of trash in the Garapan tourist district last Saturday during its second monthly cleanup of the year.

Twenty Saipan Awaodori members, nine Kinpachi Restaurant staff, and two Kagman High School students took part in the cleanup of the Paseo de Marianas and its environs.

PDM Promoters' Sonia Siwa said they started around 9am and ended at 11:30am. Areas of the cleanup included the Paseo de Marianas and areas within


Beach Road, Winchell's Road, Coral Tree Avenue, and American Memorial Park's road.

"We collected 1,540 pounds of trash, beer bottles, cigarette butts, dried bushes, and mostly the firecrackers scattered not only in Paseo de Marianas but all over the place," Siwa said. The firecracker litter came from the celebration of Lunar New Year last month.

PDM does its cleanup every month, collecting up to 1,000 lbs of trash.

For more information and to

join the monthly cleanup, call the Kinpachi Restaurant at 233-7715 and ask for Siwa. (*Jayson Camacho*)



BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy 18th birthday to a sweet girl who turns into a fine lady today, Lynette Joyce Vasquez! Thanks for a wonderful 18 years of being with us. We love you and are always proud of you. Greetings come from Mom and Dad.

Calif. cardiologist sets up shop at Precision Medical Imaging

By JAYSON CAMACHO
jayson_camacho@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Commuting more than 5,000 miles from California to look after Guam patients in the past 17 years, Dr. Juan Carlos Quiros will now be extending his specialty healthcare to Saipan residents.

Quiros, medical director for international services at the Good Samaritan Hospital in Los Angeles, California, will be extending his specialty service in the area of cardiology to patients on Saipan from here on out.

Last Tuesday, Quiros visited Saipan and provided services at Precision Medical Imaging, which is located on Middle Road, Gualo Rai. He attended to 50 patients in just a span of three days.

"I have come to Guam, and now Saipan, on a regular basis to do cardiology consultations as requested by primary care physicians, and in working with them, assist in the care of their patients," he said.

Quiros said he understands the need for specialized medical care on the islands and wanted to help bridge that gap.

"As a physician, I want to know that I have been a positive impact on my patients' health," Quiros said.

He was most passionate about this, saying it is not so much his goal as a cardiologist but the goals he holds personally.

He also credits the support he gets from the Good Samaritan Hospital, which has been committed to the islands for over 30 years. Good Sam, as what most people know Good Samaritan Hospital as, has been part of Guam's extended family for nearly three decades—always helping those in need while they're thousands of miles away from home seeking medical treatment.

What was most rewarding to Quiros over the years of his visits is the improvement in the health of Guam's population.

"It's great to see so many people partaking in healthy activities nowadays as compared to the past. Hope that trend now continues here on Saipan," he said. He also hopes the younger generations are more health-minded.

What concerns him most about his patients is "the possibility that there may not be enough financial support to implement some of the vital health care initiatives needed in the islands."

Quiros originally visited the region as part of a group. Once he and the group separated, he continued his commitment to serve Guam despite being in Southern California.

He said that in his first visit to Saipan, he was pleasantly surprised at how friendly and supportive the islanders were.

Quiros grew up in Southern California, going through the Catholic school system up to and including college. He also went to Loyola Marymount for undergraduate school, finished medical school in Spain, and then did his postgraduate training in New York.

He said he has been very fortunate to have learned from very good teachers and most have been his mentors in influencing him to pursue cardiology.


He promised to continue to come to the islands as long as his help and expertise are required.

"I can probably write a book about life-changing experiences. However, let's just say the path is always set, we just have to recognize it...I will continue to come to the islands as long as I am needed and wanted and look forward to the islands that all are willing to be team players," he said.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Dr. Juan Carlos Quiros has his picture taken at Precision Medical Imaging on Middle Road in Gualo Rai.




Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
P.O. Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-8300; Fax: (670) 664-8315
www.crm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing for the proposed Archaeological Recovery under Permit Application Number SMS-2015-X-006. The permit application was submitted by Imperial Pacific International (CNMI), LLC to conduct an archaeological recovery of cultural resources including clearing of existing vegetation, excavation, and erection of perimeter fence on the following lots- TD 1440, TR 21049, 144 D 01R/W and 104 D 04, in Garapan between Joeten Hafa Adai Shopping Center and Fiesta Resort.

The public hearing is scheduled for Monday, March 9th, 2015, 6:00 PM at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan.

Written comments may also be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 305, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Archaeological Recovery in Garapan.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality

Division of Coastal Resources Management
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www.crm.gov.mp



NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Division of Coastal Resources Management (DCRM) will be holding a public hearing on the proposed Tinian Municipal Transfer Station permit application (No.TMS-2014-X-058). The permit application was submitted by the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor and the Department of Public Works to construct the Tinian Municipal Transfer Station that will function as a community convenience center for Tinian residents to transport their solid waste. The proposed site for this project is being considered at three (3) possible locations in Tinian- Site A (near Tinian Dump), Site B (south of Tinian Airport), and Site C (near Tinian Power Plant).

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, March 10th, 2015, 6:00 PM at the Tinian Elementary School Gymnasium, to solicit comments on the proposed Tinian Municipal Transfer Station.

Written comments can be submitted to the DCRM Office, Suite 303, Gualo Rai Center, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan, or mail to the Division of Coastal Resources Management, Caller Box 10007 or by fax at 664-8315. The project file is open for review and comment during regular business hours from 7:30 A.M. – 4:30 P.M., Monday thru Friday. All written and oral comments received by DCRM will be included as part of the permit application record and will be considered in any decisions concerning the proposed project.

Please contact the DCRM at 664-8300/1 if you have any questions or would like to learn more about the Tinian Municipal Transfer Station.

/s/ Frances A. Castro
Director
Division of Coastal Resources Management

Lizama is elected NMC board chair

The Northern Marianas College Board of Regents held their election of officers Monday afternoon, with Juan T. Lizama voted as chairman, Elain Hocog Orilla as vice chairman, and Michaela Sanchez as treasurer.

The regents voted unanimously for Lizama, according to Orilla.

Lizama had been chairman in years past. Orilla retains her post.

Lizama replaces Frank Rabauliman, the previous chairman, who was also elected unanimously in December 2013. Rabauliman had succeeded Lizama, who had led the board during a period of accreditation sanctions the

college had faced.

The board chair is seen as the "spokesperson" of the board,

representing them and leading them as they govern the college.

The position has a term of

one year. Regents elect a chairperson every year.

Maria T. Peter, William Tor-

res, and Elizabeth Rechebai make up rest of the board of regents. **(Dennis B. Chan)**

Invitation from Sabalu Farmer's Market

The Saipan Sabalu Farmer's Market, Inc. would like to invite any school, organization, or non-profit group to have a booth at their Susupe site for any fundraising activities.

The association is also inviting all Saipan resident farmers to join the group, especially those whose previous applica-

tions have never been acted on or disapproved.

The public is also being urged to continue to patronize the Saipan Sabalu Farmer's Market's fresh fruits and vegetables every Saturday from 6am to 12pm. There is plenty of pechay and white raddish now! Avocado and mango season is approaching soon.

For further information, call Manny Borja at 898-9655 and Sol San Nicolas at 789-8914. **(PR)**

StayWell buyout, under sole ownership

HAGATÑA, Guam—The sole owner of StayWell, Chen Yu Mack, said yesterday that the company has embarked on an exciting new chapter, "one infused with energy and a renewed commitment to excellence for its members and the community."

One of the original founders of the company, Mack is also the new president and CEO of StayWell and Island Home Insurance Company. Mack was involved from the time of the company's inception and is now the sole owner through a recent buyout of its previous shareholders.

Mack's leadership is augmented by StayWell's board of directors, which includes longtime professional busi-

nessmen Michael Sablan, CPA, George Lostracco, and Joseph Camacho, EVP/COO of CU Holdings.

"I am so fortunate to have the best on our board. The business acumen and proven abilities that Mike, George, and Joe bring are exactly what is needed to fulfill the new vision for StayWell," said Mack.

Camacho said: "StayWell is a strong company and with a renewed and refreshed direction it will be even better. Our members and the community have much to look forward to. Our plans are exciting. As a board, we support Chen and the man-



Chen

agement team and are committed to providing nothing short of excellence to our members and the community of Guam."

Since 1988, Mack has been involved in the company's challenges, successes, and operations and eventually became a shareholder and director. In 2008, Mack formed Island Home Insurance Company to be the underwriter for StayWell Insurance. Mack's background and success includes the acquisition and management of commercial and residential real

estate in the U.S. mainland.

"Being at the helm of reinvigorating a company can be challenging. I am confident and positive because StayWell has an outstanding team of managers and employees. More than half of our key managers have been with the company for over 10 years while some have been with us for over 20 years. It is the dedication and commitment of those that drive this company that have made it successful, and now we are all looking forward to the challenge of making it even better," she said. **(StayWell)**

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Half-day today at Kagman High

Kagman High School parents and guardians are being informed that the 3rd Quarter Report Cards will be issued today, March 4, 2015, from 3pm to 6pm at the KHS cafeteria. Please ask your child for their 1st-4th period teachers. This will lessen your time on where to go when you are getting their progress reports.

Students will be dismissed at 12:30pm. Parent End of the Year raffle tickets will be issued to parents and guardians who pick up their child(ren)'s report card.

Should you have any questions and or concerns, call KHS main office at 664-3780/237-3840 or e-mail: khsayuyu@kagmanhigh.org. **(KHS)**

KES thanks Torres couple for restroom renovation

Koblerville Elementary School had a ribbon cutting last March 3 to open the newly renovated boys' restroom. Attorney Vince Torres and his wife helped with the funding of the renovation. STUCO president Devahn Dogelio and MyWave Club president Lukubiyad Gilnifrad, along with other students, expressed their sincere gratitude to the couple. "We had an ugly sink in the boy's restroom before and it looks really nice now," said Dogelio. "Thank you to Mr. and Mrs. Vince Torres for thinking about our safety." School principal Rizalina Liwag is also thankful for the generosity of the couple. **(PR)**

Rosa Benavente Royal passes away

The CNMI Cursillos is greatly saddened by the passing of their sister, Rosa Benavente Royal, Cursillo No 1, July 1993, Parish of St. Jude and Decuria of St. Monica. The CNMI Cursillos extend their heartfelt condolences to the children and their families. All Cursillistas are respectfully invited to join in prayers with the families of our beloved "Chai" on Wednesday, March 4, after the 6pm Mass at St. Jude Church. **(PR)**

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

BEST SUNSHINE INTERNATIONAL

Best Sunshine is committed to develop Saipan's first Integrated Resort, which includes hotels, retail shops, restaurants, spa & wellness, health & aesthetics tourism, conference, casino and themed entertainment. We invite interested professionals to apply for the following positions.

• Pile Hammer Operator – \$6.05 - \$6.50 hourly

Requirements:

Controlling operations of equipment or systems. Watching gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly. The ability to judge which of several objects is closer or farther away from you, or to judge the distance between you and an object. Knowledge of machines and tools, including their designs, uses, repair, and maintenance. Have the ability and physical coordination to operate complex machinery. Must be physically fit and able to work in a team atmosphere. At least 2 years of working experience or higher in the related field is required for this position. Must have criminal background clearance and drug test clearance.

• Welding Technician – \$6.05 - \$6.50 hourly

Requirements:

Possess AWS certificate. Must be physically fit and able to work in a team atmosphere. At least 3 years of working experience or higher in the related field is required for this position. Must be able to work as a team. Must be able to understand simple drawings. Knowledge and can perform both basic and advance metal welding courses; Knowledge in Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry; Comprehension in non-destructive tests for welding; Analytical skills. Must have criminal background clearance and drug test clearance.

• Rigger – \$6.05 - \$6.50 hourly

Requirements:

Must be able to work in a team atmosphere. Must put forward a professional behavior that enhances productivity and promotes teamwork and cooperation. Grooming and dress must be appropriate for the position and must not impose a safety/risk hazard to the employee or others. Must be able to obtain and maintain a security clearance as required. Employee must have a valid driver license. Visual and physical (hands on) contact of rigging related systems, hardware, articles. Must be able to walk, stand, bend, twist and sit for extended periods as well as climb, crawl, and lift, body mobility and corrected vision. At least 2 years of working experience or higher in the related field is required for this position. Must have criminal background clearance and drug test clearance.

• Building Surveyor – \$6.05 - \$6.50 hourly (5)

Requirements:

Minimum 3 years job experience ensuring projects are completed on budget and to schedule; advising clients on schemes and projects and determining requirements; preparing scheme designs with costings, programmes for completion of projects and specification of works; organizing documents for tender and advising on appointing contractors, designers and procurement routes; determining the condition of existing buildings, identifying and analyzing defects, including proposals for repair; advising on energy efficiency, environmental impact and sustainable construction; instructing on the preservation/conservation of historic buildings; advising on the management and supervision of maintenance of buildings; dealing with planning applications and advising on property legislation and building regulations; assessing and designing buildings to meet the needs of people with disabilities; instructing on construction design and management regulations; negotiating dilapidations (when there is a legal liability for a property's state of disrepair); carrying out feasibility studies; advising on the health and safety aspects of buildings; advising on boundary and rights of light disputes and party wall procedures; Preparing insurance assessments and claims.

Employment Application must be submitted, together with the requirements, in order to be considered for the position. ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE AT THE TIME OF SUBMISSION. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered. A copy of valid police clearance (less than 6 months old) must be attached to the application. Skills testing may be required. Please email hr@bestsunshineint.com to request the application form, then submit the entire package to hr@bestsunshineint.com. Background check may be required before employment.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands NMI BOARD OF NURSING

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the NMI Board of Nursing, is hereby giving notice that the Board will have a meeting on Monday, March 9th, 2014, at the CHCC Conference Room 2. The meeting will commence at 4:00pm.

AGENDA

- I. Roll Call of Members
- II. Call to Order
- III. Adoption of Minutes
1. January 19, 2015
- IV. Adoption of Agenda
1. Office Manager Report
2. Treasurer's Report: Financial Report
3. Secretary's Report
4. Vice-Chair Report
5. Chair Report
- V. Old Business
1. ORBS
- VI. New Business
1. Ethics, Conflict of Interest, and Appearance of Fairness Guidelines
- VII. Board Executive Session
- VIII. Miscellaneous
- IX. Adjournment

/s/ Bertha P. Camacho, NP
Chairperson, NMI BON

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified individuals to apply for the following positions:

Advertising Sales Agent

Associates degree in Business Administration or any related course. Minimum of 3 years solid experience in advertising and sales is required. Must have the ability to compose clear business correspondence and prepare and meet monthly sales targets. A background in a printing or newspaper business is an advantage. Proficient in MS Word, Excel and Power Point and must work flexible hours.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. Human Resources Office located on the 2nd Floor, JP Center Building at Beach Road, Garapan or e-mail it to It_recruitment@tanholdings.com. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Monday, March 09, 2015.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXV, Issue No. 44Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
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MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Federal food police back in action

The food police are at it again. The latest assault on the freedom to control what you put into your own body comes in the form of a 571-page report from the Dietary Guidelines Advisory Committee, established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Department of Health and Human Services to provide nutritional guidance.

The report calls for a number of “bold actions” to help bring about the “dramatic paradigm shifts” the committee views as necessary to significantly improve public health. Chief among these goals is encouraging people to adopt more “plant-based” diets, such as vegan and Mediterranean-style diets.

Recommendations often begin with “require,” “limit,” “reduce,” “encourage” or “incentivize.” In other words, they advocate more government controls. This includes imposing sin taxes on soda, snack foods and desserts and subsidizing “healthy foods” such as fruits and vegetables, which is sure to please many well-connected farm lobbies.

Other recommended policies include banning certain foods, mandating standardized food labeling, limiting the marketing of “unhealthy foods” to all age groups (and especially to children), reducing “access to high-calorie, nutrient-poor foods and sugar-sweetened beverages in public buildings and facilities,” combating sedentary behavior like watching television or spending time on computers with “behavioral interventions” — including “electronic tracking and monitoring of the use of screen-based technologies” — and calling for obesity “interventionists” to develop “comprehensive lifestyle interventions and evidence-based dietary interventions” not only at public health facilities, but also at workplaces.

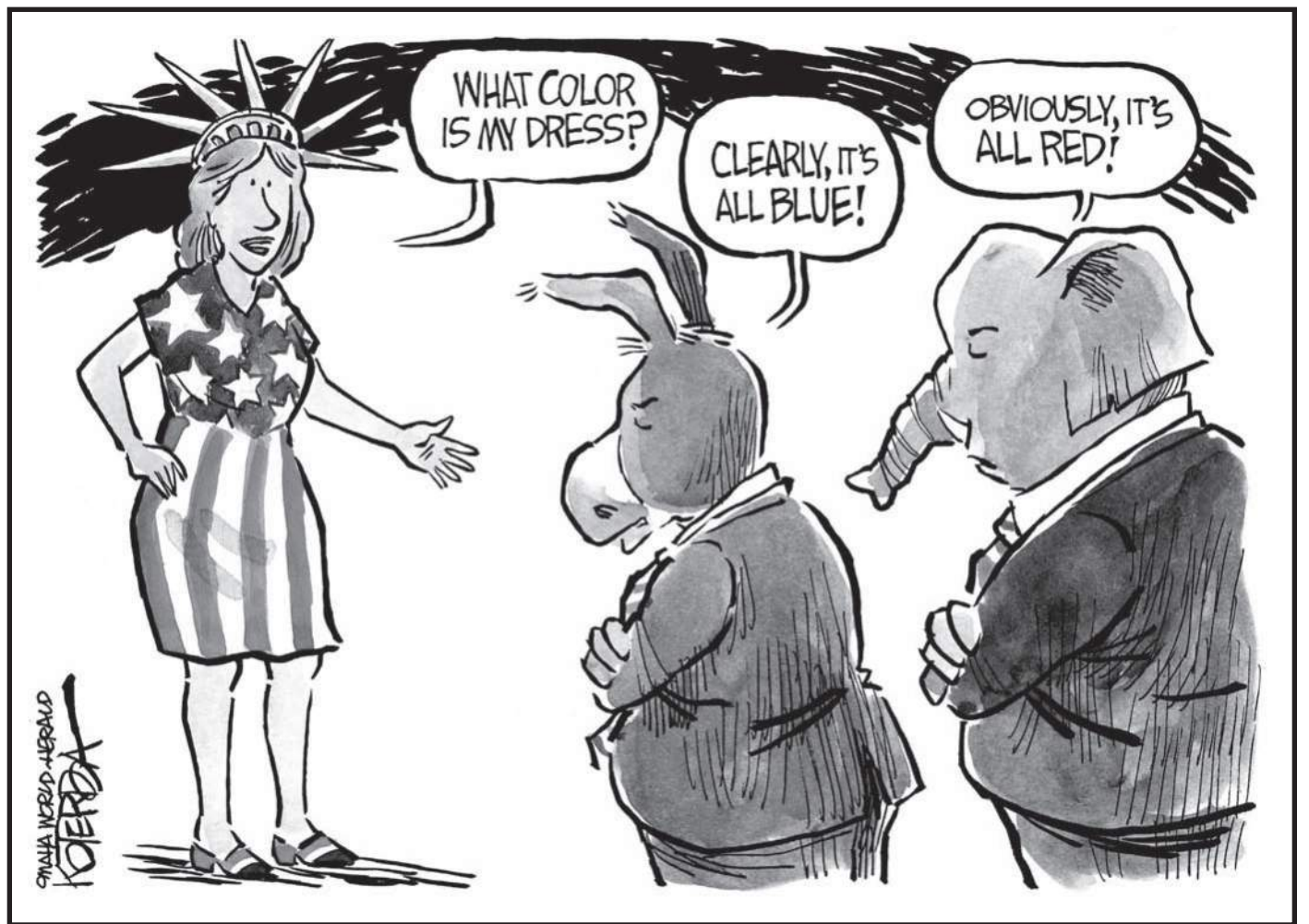
The report, additionally, doubles down on support (i.e., taxpayer money) for food stamps, public education campaigns (including promoting physical activity “through social media, smartphone and other technologies”) and the federal school lunch program, whose new nutritional guidelines have led to widespread student protests and a surge in discarded food that students refuse to eat.

There are few areas beyond the reach of the health dogooders, who wish to “establish new, well-coordinated policies that include, but are not limited to, agriculture, economics, transportation, energy, water use and dietary guidance.”

Though some of the DGAC report’s nutritional recommendations may be sound and voluntary, the level of government intervention needed to achieve its goals is truly frightening.

If we want to remain a free society, we must reject such paternalism — for government is an abusive parent — and the natural tendencies of central planners and their anointed experts to dictate how people should live their lives. For if the government can force (or “encourage” or “incentivize”) you to eat Brussels sprouts and kale, what personal decisions can’t it dictate?

(c)2015 The Orange County Register (Santa Ana, Calif.)



Plight of female Ukrainian pilot reflects Russian deceit

This is a column about a beautiful Ukrainian helicopter pilot named Nadiya Savchenko, who was captured by pro-Russian rebels and illegally transported from her country to a prison in Moscow. She could die soon.

It is also a column about lies so blatant, so contrary to available facts, that they insult the intelligence. Vladimir Putin and his spokesmen repeat such lies over and over about what Russia is doing in Ukraine. Yet Western leaders still refrain from denouncing them as falsehoods.

That makes it impossible to develop a coherent Western strategy to stop Russian aggression.

Savchenko’s case illustrates why it’s long past time to confront the Kremlin about its lying game.

The 33-year-old Savchenko, born in Kiev, dreamed of becoming a pilot when she was a teenager. She joined the army and worked as a radio operator, eventually training as a paratrooper. She became the only woman in a Ukrainian peacekeeping mission to Iraq in the mid-2000s, and successfully fought for admission to the previously all-male Ukrainian Air Force Academy. She then became a pioneer in fighting for gender equality in the military, rising to the rank of lieutenant and serving as a helicopter navigator and gunner.

After Russian-backed separatists stirred up a war in Eastern Ukraine last year, Savchenko asked to be sent to the front. Her request was denied, so she took a leave to help train a volunteer militia near Lugansk in the east of the country. On June 17, she was taken prisoner by pro-Russian rebels, who made a YouTube video of their interrogations.

Savchenko is dressed in fatigues, her hair cut short, and is sitting handcuffed to a bright-yellow metal chair. “Who is targeting us?” they demand. “All of Ukraine,” she replies.

Here’s where the story gets really Russian. On June 30, Savchenko suddenly appears in police custody in Russia, accused of helping Ukrainian forces target two Russian journalists inside Ukraine. Russian officials claim she crossed the border “voluntarily” and was arrested on their side.

Never mind that this claim is absurd. Seven hundred thousand people have viewed the YouTube video of pro-Russian separatists questioning her inside Ukraine in mid-June. Never mind that Savchenko was far from the site where the journalists were killed, as proved by cellphone data, and that she was captured before they died.

Never mind that kidnapping a Ukrainian POW and transporting her to Russia is illegal under international law. Or that it provides absolute proof that this is not a Ukrainian civil war (in which case she would be held by the Ukrainian rebels) but a war between Russia and Ukraine.

The Ukrainian lieutenant has been held for more than seven months in a Moscow prison, rarely permitted visits from her lawyer (who is being harassed) or Ukrainian consular officials, and prevented from attending court sessions. Now a heroine to fellow

By TRUDY RUBIN

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



Ukrainians, she has been on a hunger strike for more than 70 days as the only means of pressuring Moscow. Her health is failing. But a Moscow judge has refused to move up her trial date, scheduled for mid-May. She could be dead by then.

And here’s the really ugly part. Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko says Putin agreed that Savchenko would be released as part of a cease-fire deal concluded two weeks ago in Minsk, Belarus. Russia denies this. But then, Russian-backed rebels have blatantly violated the Minsk deal and Russian weapons have kept flowing across the border, even as Moscow keeps denying any role in Ukraine.

I put this question to former U.S. Ambassador John Herbst, now at the Atlantic Council, who has called on Washington to send defensive weapons to Ukraine. Herbst’s answer was swift: “If you call it a lie, it changes how you have to respond.”

Indeed, if NATO presents Putin with the evidence of his invasion of Ukraine, as Adlai Stevenson famously did in 1962 when he confronted the Kremlin’s ambassador to the U.N., and he continues his denials, NATO countries would face critical choices. At that point, it would be unavoidably clear that Russia had no intention of halting its intervention, instead aiming to keep Ukraine permanently unstable or annexing more of its land.

That already appears to be where Putin is headed. He has successfully challenged the post-World War II order in Europe, whereby nations refrained from changing borders by force. And top U.S. intelligence officials believe he is poised to seize more Ukrainian territory.

So why not tell Putin frankly, in private, and possibly in public: If you send arms, then we will also—defensive weapons that will cause more Russian casualties and cost you support at the home. Polls show most Russians believe Putin’s denial of involvement and don’t want their soldiers to die in Ukraine.

On Tuesday, Secretary of State John Kerry took a first step when he admitted at Senate hearings that Russian officials had repeatedly lied about their activities in Ukraine “to my face, to the face of others, on many occasions.” It’s time to present a dossier of incriminating photos to “their face” and make clear that Washington will act on the basis of facts, not fake Russian protestations.

It’s also time to demand the release of Savchenko—whose plight illustrates the worst of Russian dissimulation—before this brave pilot dies.

Published: Uncle Dave’s book

It was an honor to receive a signed copy of Uncle Dave’s book, *A Degree of Success Through Curiosity*. Uncle Dave’s book was basically a piece about the family origin (Sablan), his younger pre-war days; experience during the naval administration and the “hard days night” as a student in Guam in the mid-’50s. Immediately after high school, he started working as a clerk at a shipping firm run by Atkins Kroll Guam.

Elias P. Sablan was my grandpa, Felix Sablan, great grandpa, and Mariano DelRosario Sablan, great-great grandpa. Mariano was the first appointed governor of these isles during the Spanish era.

Grandpa Elias served three consecutive four-year terms as mayor of Saipan. His vision of closer U.S. ties came to fruition in what’s our relationship today with the federal government.

The name Sablan is Hebrew, meaning “to deal with issues...tolerant of others.” DelRosario is simply the rosary. I’m blessed! My great-great grandpa left behind a pedigree of leadership.

With a humble beginning, Uncle Dave never lost sight of his burning determination to succeed. He’s done banking, established AK here (then Microl Corp.) and led the building of the Saipan Beach Intercontinental Inn (now Fiesta Resort) and founded business and civic organizations like the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and the Saipan Rotary Club.

For his business acumen, this is one person who could have become a multi-millionaire who decided to go it alone. But there’s that DNA we’ve picked up from Grandpa Elias P. Sablan, focusing on “service to others” so they too could see brighter tomorrows. He never ingratiates himself though highly successful in his attainment of pinnacles in his career in private industries.

He’s one person I can’t compensate for his generosity, grand sense of compassion and mindfulness. He was by my mom’s

side when dad died in 1955. Even beyond his golden years I still enjoy his intellectual acuity and even more, his character or intellectual integrity. He’s a godsend and a uniquely blessed Chamolinian.

Uncle Dave was my beacon light for most of my high school years. He coached me in a speech competition during my freshman year. Won first place and repeated the same feat for the next two years coming out number one, three years in a row!

Si Yuus Maase, Uncle Dave!

Trust but verify

Whatever you do there’s a measure of confidence in your dealings with others. Though this may be the case it’s always good practice to “trust but verify.”

For instance, last week I wrote about CHC’s need for a financial bailout. Legislators must not rush to judgment. It’s your responsibility to figure out the beast or lead, not pander.

Did CHC submit a balanced budget to the Legislature in the last three fiscal years? Approved or otherwise, was the planned expenditure followed as a matter of accountability following the fiscal blueprint? Now, if the answer is in the affirmative, then how come the hospital is bankrupt?

If the CEO did her own fiscal somersault, what areas were violated (in her balanced budget submission) and by how much? I raise this query based on word of salary promotions rendered to “some” hospital staff while skipping others. If this was ransom to buy loyalty it may have worked.

However, the fiscal somersaulting isn’t an accomplishment but a half-inclusive policy decision. It’s the obvious perversion of fairness against non-recipients who may be victims of salary stagnancy

energy program. That may be enough for him Iran’s new president to keep his job, and hold the IRGC and other hardliners at bay, and live to negotiate another day.

If the U.S. is seen as the cause of the negotiations failure, say, because Congress passes a bill requiring a contentious up-or-down vote on the agreement, the results are likely to be very different. Russia and China would surely move to increase commercial, and perhaps military, ties with Tehran. And our European partners, already planning trade ties, might soon follow suit. In short, the carefully constructed international sanctions regime would almost certainly weaken and possibly collapse. Severe strains might well develop within NATO at the same time unity on Ukraine is needed.

This would be even more true if Israeli objections were seen as the root cause, or if Congress was seen as acting on Israel’s behalf. Make no mistake—this issue goes beyond any perceived slight on the part of the Obama administration. Netanyahu’s proposed speech is dangerous.

And then what? In the aftermath of a failed deal, both sides will take a period of reassessment. Iran is unlikely to continue to accede to the current enhanced International Atomic Energy Agency inspections regime, so transparency will suffer immediately. Iran already retains the capability to develop nuclear weapons. In the event of a breakdown in negotiations, Iran’s nuclear pro-

the boy is a dangerous creep.

As countless millions already know, the story centers around 27-year-old businessman Christian Grey’s seduction of ingenue Anastasia Steele, a college student. He is older and wealthy. She is young and poor. He is experienced and controlling. She is naive and trusting. He owns a helicopter. She drives a VW Bug.

Eventually we get to the fact—and, obviously, this is what sets “Fifty Shades” apart from other romances—that Christian wants to physically and emotionally dominate her and hit her for his own pleasure.

No wonder some feminists are inveighing against the film, and this time, the sisters have a point.

As much as it can, “Fifty Shades” seeks to sanitize the S&M. But there’s no sugarcoating what Christian is about. His seduction of Anastasia is emotionally manipulative, his drive to control her is abusive, and his pursuit of her—unexpectedly showing up at places where she is—could easily be considered stalking. If anything like this happened in remotely more realistic circumstances, the proper

sentence, she got sexually harassed but no action was taken against the harasser despite of my requests to the authorities to investigate.

I am just an old father having no knowledge in legal matters. My heart aches so much for her! I cannot help her but I am asking you to pardon her, a mother of five, please! Could you set her free and have her placed under my responsibility, giving her a chance to open a new chapter in her life? She has already served three-plus years and has learned her lessons hard way. I know my daughter, after what she has been through she will never violate the law again. May God bless you!

Teddy Guiao

Lower Navy Hill, Saipan

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

for years. An across-the-board increase would have settled the score peacefully from the outset where everybody’s a happy camper.

A balanced budgetary blueprint doesn’t necessarily leave much room for politicking lest such hasty decision means sacrificing critical programs in the process. For instance, doctors and nurses have learned to work under familiar theme of “no supplies.” This piqued my interest—specifically what supplies aren’t available in the ER, ICU, pediatrics and the regular floor?

You see, the power of the purse rests with the Legislature, not department or agency heads. DPL’s budget is the only constitutionally protected submission from legislative disposition. Everybody else must follow the approved blueprint. Additional funds must undergo supplemental budgetary request and approval.

Unfortunately, CHC is under fiscal life support system now. It can’t even meet its utility bill. Such being the case, it is into deficit spending while pinned down with more debts than its annual revenue collection or funds from upstairs.

More the reason why the board must be given oversight authority so there’s consistent review and evaluation of the CEO’s performance. The goal is the enhancement of services. Let’s end spouting one thing while doing the exact opposite. Accountability is imperative! After all, it’s our tax dollars!

By RICHARD KLASS
CQ-Roll Call



Retired Col. Richard Klass is a graduate of the U.S. Air Force Academy, the National War College and Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar. He flew more than 200 combat missions in Vietnam and served in the executive office of the president as a White House fellow. He wrote this for CQ Roll Call.

gram could shift from its current restrained state, to unfettered advancement. Limits on enrichment, centrifuges, and additional research and development would disappear. And without the support of our international partners, Iran would be free to move forward, to build a bomb if it so chooses, without the heavy burden of sanctions on its shoulders.

The path after a rejection of an Iranian nuclear agreement or of a failure to reach one is likely to be difficult, but just how difficult may depend largely on who is seen to have been responsible. The U.S. must hold strong with its negotiating partners, and should, under no circumstances, put itself in a position to have to argue against its own intransigence.

By RICH LOWRY
King Features Synd., Inc.



Rich Lowry is editor of the National Review.

response to Christian’s obsessive attention would be a good kick in the groin, followed by a restraining order.

Not to mention a referral to a first-class psychiatrist. The roots of Christian’s desire to hurt women is his own abuse as a child. Anastasia, in her wide-eyed way, wants to save her Byronic romantic hero from his demons, but that would be better left to a professional with years of training and lots of time to work with an emotionally damaged client.

The lesson of “Fifty Shades” should be: Ladies, don’t try this at home. In real life, trying to reform manipulative and abusive men only ends in tears, and becoming subject to sexual humiliation only brings humiliation.

The edge is taken off “Fifty Shades” by its sheer ridiculousness—the movie is punctuated by moments of inadvertent hilarity—and its fairy-tale ending. Anastasia maintains her identity, even though Christian wants to obliterate it. And over the course of its three books, Christian Grey is indeed reformed and tamed, and Anastasia forms a happy family with him. It’s Ward and June Cleaver, via a pleasure room that looks like something out of a Restoration Hardware catalog.

Needless to say, there are easier routes to marital bliss, and they never involve anyone like Christian Grey, who gives the patriarchy a bad name.

The Iran end game

It is clear we’re approaching an end game in nuclear negotiations between six world powers—the P5 + 1—and Iran. Final negotiating maneuvers have commenced. Secretary of State John Kerry has said there will not be another extension beyond March 31 unless a political framework is in place. Reports from Iran hold that President Hassan Rouhani’s position will be precarious if there is no agreement. And the word from Israel is that the country will use its full strength to prevent any agreement that does not meet its unreasonable demands—including Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s controversial address to the Congress on May 3.

If there is a negotiated agreement that is rejected, either in Congress or in Iran, it will be clear who bears the responsibility. But if no agreement is reached, it will matter greatly who is seen to be responsible. There is a good argument to be made that it is in the U.S. interest for any breakdown in negotiations to appear to be caused by Iranian intransigence.

How so?

If Iran walks away from the talks, Rouhani can claim to have stood up to “The Great Satan” and protected Iran’s civil nuclear

Creep meets girl

Thelma and Louise should be appalled.

Almost 25 years after their epic road movie attacked “conventional patterns of chauvinist male behavior toward females” (in the words of one critic), here arrives “Fifty Shades of Grey,” perhaps the most successful anti-feminist movie ever made.

The runaway best-selling novel is now a juggernaut on the big screen, driven by overwhelmingly female audiences that accounted for its record-breaking opening weekend.

The dirty secret of “Fifty Shades” is that, underneath the kinky exterior, it’s a formulaic romantic fantasy. For all its notorious boundary-pushing, it is the distilled essence of decades’ worth of Harlequin paperbacks, with hyperstereotypical gender roles pushed to the point of perversity (figuratively and, of course, literally). “Fifty Shades” is a version of the age-old boy-meets-girl story, except

LETTER TO THE EDITOR






Open letter to our governor

Dear Mr. Governor: My congratulations on your taking the office and best wishes in serving our people!

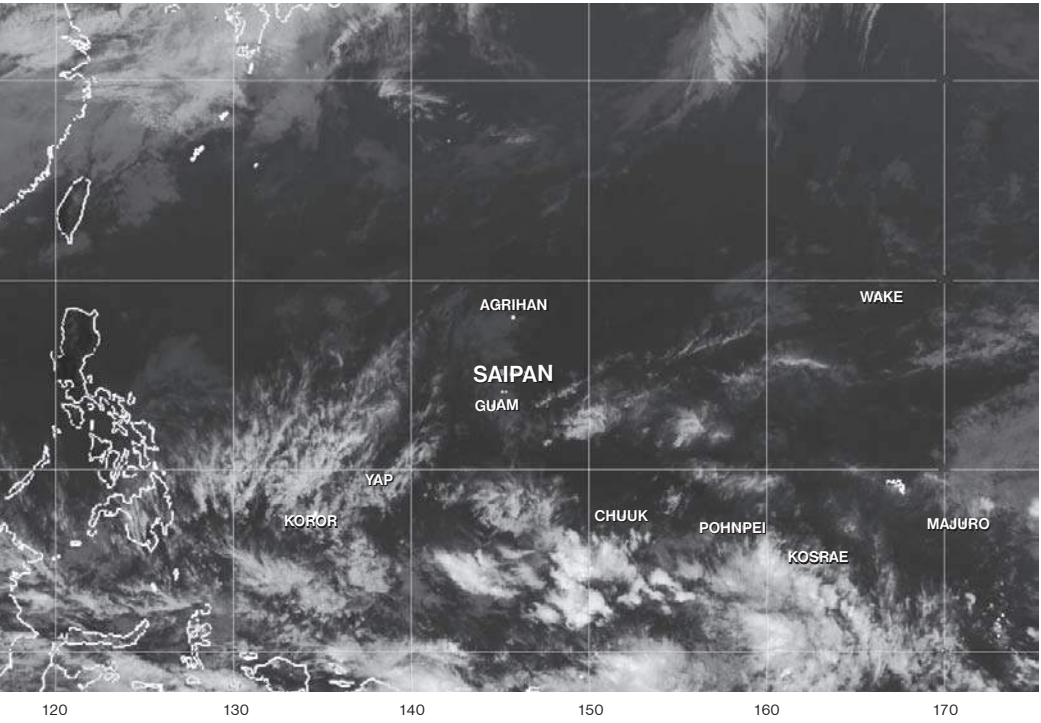
My daughter, Carmelita Guiao, who was in a love-hate relationship with her long-time lover, hit him with a hot pan and was sent to prison for 23 years. Her lover forgave her long ago and asked for relief at the court hearing. While serving her

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
				
Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 15 to 25 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°	▲85° ▼75°

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 3, 2015

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A near-equatorial trough runs eastward from 5N130E through the center of a disturbance at 2N153E to end southeast of Kosrae at 2N169E. Scattered showers near Yap and Koror are between 7N and 12N from 130E to 140E. Scattered showers near Yap and Koror are between 7N and 12N from 130E to 140E. Extensive cloudiness remains over most of central and western Micronesia with patchy areas of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms mainly south of a line from 5N130E to 7N148E to 5N160E to 2N170E. Scattered showers near Yap and Koror are between 7N and 12N from 130E to 140E. A cold front curves southwestward from west of Minami Tori Shima at 25N150E to end near 20N130E. Cloudiness and patchy rain are along and up to 150 miles northwest of the front. A surface trough is causing cloudiness and widely scattered showers across the Mariana Islands between 19N and 12N from 143E to 147E. A trade-wind surge is producing scattered showers from just east of Wake Islands southward across the Northern Marshall Islands east of a line from 20N172E to 8N170E to 2N180E.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

Micronesia			
Guam And Rota	Showers	▲84	▼77
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲86	▼77
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲85	▼77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲85	▼80
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around the Globe			
Auckland	Showers	▲77	▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲45	▼22
Hong Kong	Showers	▲68	▼64
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼70
London	Partly Cloudy	▲47	▼38
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲66	▼48
Manila	Mostly Sunny	▲92	▼71
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲78	▼56
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼72
New York	Snow	▲35	▼31
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲50	▼37
Paris	Showers	▲53	▼34
Pusan	Windy	▲46	▼26
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲67	▼47
Salem	Sunny	▲57	▼30
San Francisco	Sunny	▲62	▼47
Seoul	Sunny	▲40	▼22
Tokyo	Rain	▲65	▼39
Washington, DC	Showers	▲36	▼34



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Tides			
Saipan Harbor			
1:08 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:39 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
1:32 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.8 Feet
6:50 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset		
Today	6:33 AM	6:26 PM
Thursday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM
Friday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM
Saturday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:31 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset		
Today	4:16 AM	5:15A M
Thursday	6:03 PM	5:55 AM
Friday	6:49 PM	6:33 AM
Saturday	7:36 PM	7:11 AM
Sunday	8:23 PM	7:50 AM

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 5, 2015											
DEPARTURES						ARRIVALS					
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)						GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN					
UA5070	4:15am	5:05am	Daily			UA5069	2:45am	3:35am	Daily		
UA5068	8:00am	8:50am	3			UA5071	6:40am	7:30am	3		
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7			UA5071	7:15am	8:05am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7		
UA5039	2:20pm	4:00pm	6, 7 via Rota			UA5039	1:00pm	1:50pm	6, 7		
UA5078	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 5			UA5038	1:10pm	2:40pm	2, 4 via Rota		
UA5038	3:10pm	4:00pm	2, 4			UA5077	1:50pm	2:40pm	1, 5		
UA5040	6:55pm	7:45pm	1, 5			UA5041	5:35pm	6:25pm	1, 5		
UA5078	8:35pm	9:25pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7			UA5077	7:15pm	8:05pm	2, 3, 4, 6, 7		
UA5044	10:40pm	11:30pm	1, 5			UA5043	9:20pm	10:10pm	1, 5		
SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)						GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)					
UA5039	2:20pm	2:55pm	6, 7			UA5038	1:00pm	1:35pm	2, 4		
ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)						ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN					
UA5039	3:25pm	4:00pm	6, 7			UA5038	2:05pm	2:40pm	2, 4		
SAIPAN-PALAU (ROR)						PALAU (ROR)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	1:10am+1	2, 6 via NRT			DL298	4:35am	3:00pm	3, 7 via NRT		
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)						NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN					
DL287	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 4, 5, 6			DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily		
DL297	4:20pm	7:05pm	Daily			DL288	8:55pm	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7		
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)						SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN					
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1			OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily		
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7			7C 3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily		
OZ6063	3:20am	7:10am	3, 4, 6, 7			OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7		
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily			OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6		
7C 3401	4:30pm	8:20pm	Daily			OZ6053	8:50pm	2:10am+1	2, 3, 5, 6		
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)						BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN					
OZ608	3:10am	6:20am	4, 7			OZ607	9:00pm	1:50am+1	3, 6		
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)						SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN					
3U8648	6:00am	8:35am	1, 4, 5, 7			3U8647	10:30pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)						BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN					
MU764	1:30am	5:30am	1, 4, 5, 7			MU763	4:30pm	12:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7		
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)						GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN					
3U8646	4:30am	7:30am	2, 6			3U8645	7:55pm	3:10am+1	1, 5		
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)						MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN			OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			PR110/UA5041	7:35am	6:25pm	1,5 via GUM		
UA5069/PR111	2:45am	4:50pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5077	7:35am	8:05pm	3, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	7:20am	2, 7 via GUM			PR110/UA5043	7:35am	10:10pm	1, 5 via GUM		
UA5070/191	4:15am	9:00am	3, 6 via GUM			DL172/288	9:40am	1:25am+1	1, 3, 4, 5, 7 via NRT		
UA5070/183	4:15am	8:45pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA190/5077	9:55am	8:05pm	2, 7 via GUM		
UA5070/183	4:15am	9:10pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA190/5077	10:00am	8:05pm	3, 6 via GUM		
DL287/275	6:05am	9:35pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 6 via NRT			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	6:40am	4:50pm	3 via GUM			OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5071/PR111	7:15am	4:50pm	1, 5, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:00am	9:50pm	3 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:30pm	2, 5 via GUM			UA184/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6, 7 via GUM		
UA5068/183	8:40am	9:50pm	1, 4, 6, 7 via GUM			UA184/5038	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	4 via GUM-Rota		
UA5039/183	2:20pm	9:50pm	6, 7 via Rota-GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	2 via GUM			UA184/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:30pm	5 via GUM			UA184/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM		
UA5078/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	1 via GUM			UA184/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1 via GUM		
UA5038/183	3:10pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM			UA184/5071	10:59pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via GUM		
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN			UA184/5038	10:59pm	2:40pm+1	2 via GUM-Rota		
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)						HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN					
OZ606/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN			OZ746/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:10am	12:50pm	1 via ICN			OZ750/603	1:10am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN		
OZ606/721	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
OZ606/723	2:40am	12:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN		
UA5070/179	4:15am	10:35pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM			OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:00am	10:35pm	3 via GUM			OZ724/605	2:20pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN		
UA5068/179	8:40am	10:35pm	1, 5, 6 via GUM			UA180/5071	10:55pm	7:30am+1	3 via GUM		
UA5039/179	2:20pm	10:35pm	6 via Rota-GUM			UA180/5071	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 5, 6 via GUM		
UA5078/179	3:10pm	10:35pm	1, 5 via GUM			UA180/5039	10:55pm	1:50pm+1	6 via GUM		
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN			UA180/5077	10:55pm	2:40pm+1	1, 5 via GUM-Rota		
						UA180/5041	10:55pm	6:25pm+1	1, 5 via GUM		
						UA180/5077	10:55pm	8:05pm+1	3, 6 via GUM		
						UA180/5043	10:55pm	10:10pm+1	1, 5 via GUM		

Business

New phones, new ways to connect

By ANICK JESDANUN
AP TECHNOLOGY WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—High-end smartphones from Samsung and HTC have gotten much of the attention at this week’s wireless show in Barcelona, Spain, but cheaper options are coming from Microsoft, Lenovo and others too. Meanwhile, Google and Facebook are working on giving people more ways to use those devices.

Here’s a look at what’s been unveiled so far at the Mobile

World Congress show, which opened Monday and runs through Thursday:

AT THE HIGH END: Samsung Electronics Co. announced the Galaxy S6 phones, with an improved camera and a more stylish design that ditched plastic for metal and glass. When the iPhone 6 and 6 Plus came out last fall, Apple eliminated a big reason for buying Samsung phones: The new iPhones were bigger and closely matched Samsung’s flagship

Tourism thrives in Malaysia despite association with tragedy

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Two airplane catastrophes put Malaysia on the map in a bad way in 2014. But they didn’t hurt the country’s tourism, and the higher visibility may even have helped: visitor numbers had their strongest growth in years.

For the past decade, Malaysia has run an elaborate campaign to market itself abroad as an ideal Asian destination, touting a multiethnic culture, lush rainforests and pristine beaches. Despite the effort to internationalize, its tourism industry still relies heavily on tightly-packed neighboring Singapore and in a renewed push the government had designated 2014 as “Visit Malaysia Year.”

So when Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 went missing with 239 people on board en route from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, it put the global spotlight on Malaysia and seemingly dealt a blow to its tourism strategy. A double whammy came four months later when a Malaysia Airlines jet was shot down over rebel-held eastern Ukraine, killing all 298 people on board.

Tourism, however, grew at its fastest pace since 2008.

Figures for all of 2014 haven’t been released yet but the government’s January-October data shows 22.9 million visitors, a jump of nearly 10 percent from a year earlier. That far outpaced 2.5 percent growth for the same period in 2013 and a 0.7 percent rise in 2012. The full year growth rates for those two years are close to the 10-month figures.

“The bad publicity has made Malaysia more well known to the world,” said Jaya Kumar Sannadurai, vice president at

Dayangti Transport and Tours.

The overall effect on visitor numbers is probably marginal but being the center of attention “is an advantage to us in some ways,” he said.

The strong growth in tourism came despite a sharp drop in visitors from China, which had 153 nationals on Flight 370. Many in China were angered by Malaysia’s perceived mishandling of the tragedy.

The Malaysian government says satellite data showed the jet crashed into the southern Indian Ocean, but no wreckage has been found despite an exhaustive multi-nation search. Authorities believe the plane was flown deliberately off course, but are still investigating the cause of the disappearance.

Kidnappings since April of foreigners including a Chinese fish breeder and a Chinese female tourist from a resort in Malaysia’s Sabah state in Borneo by Philippine gangs also put off tourists. All were released after ransom was paid. Sabah, a popular destination for scuba-diving and nature trails, is a short boat ride from southern Philippines, home to Muslim militants and kidnap gangs.

For January-October, Chinese tourists to Malaysia dropped by 11 percent or some 175,000 people. It remained Malaysia’s third biggest source of visitors.

The aim of the Visit Malaysia campaign, with the endangered pot-bellied proboscis monkey as its mascot, was to lure 28 million visitors and 76 billion ringgit (\$21.1 billion) in spending. Tourism is already Malaysia’s second biggest earner of foreign exchange after manufactured goods.



A person takes a picture of the new devices at the Mobile World Congress, the world’s largest mobile phone trade show in Barcelona, Spain, Monday, March 2, 2015.

Galaxy phones in size. Now, Samsung is trying to catch up to Apple’s camera and design.

Samsung’s new premium model, the Galaxy S6 Edge, has curved displays for viewing information from the side. Both S6 phones will have mobile-payment capabilities, as Samsung prepares for a summer launch of its rival to Apple Pay.

HTC Corp. also announced an update to its HTC One phone. Known as M9, the new model will have a better camera, while keeping a metal design and polished finish. Previous HTC One phones took 4 megapixel images, as HTC focused instead on the camera’s low-light capabilities. But many shots in normal light ended up looking dull. The phone’s main camera will now be 20 megapixels.

Prices for the HTC One and the main S6 phone will likely be in the \$600 to \$700 range—on par with the iPhone 6—when

they go on sale in the U.S. and other markets this spring. The S6 Edge will cost more, likely by at least \$100. Wireless carriers will likely offer steep discounts with two-year service contracts.

MID-RANGE: Lenovo Group’s \$349 Vibe Shot includes several camera technologies found in higher-priced phones, including a 16-megapixel rear camera and an optical image stabilizer to compensate for shake in low-light conditions.

Sony Corp. has the Xperia M4 Aqua with the company’s signature waterproof protection for about 299 euros (\$336).

Neither phone will make it to the U.S., though.

Ahead of the show, LG Electronics Inc. announced four mid-range smartphones—Magna, Spirit, Leon and Joy. Prices and U.S. availability weren’t revealed.

ON A BUDGET: Microsoft Corp. unveiled the Lumia 640 and 640 XL smartphones. The XL is larger and has a sharper camera—at 13 megapixels instead of 8 megapixels. Prices start at 139 euros (\$156) before taxes. U.S. prices and dates haven’t been announced, though AT&T says it will have the larger model exclusively. Microsoft says the phones will get Windows 10 when that system is released later this year.

Meanwhile, Lenovo’s \$169 A7000 will include Dolby Atmos audio technology. Instead of just stereo, sound will seem three-dimensional when using headphones. Dolby says Atmos content isn’t available on any streaming or download service just yet. The A7000 joins two just-announced Lenovo tablets and last fall’s Fire HDX 8.9 tablet from Amazon in having Atmos. It’s not destined for U.S. markets, however.

Last week, Lenovo subsidiary Motorola announced an update to its Moto E. Among the improvements: Better focusing in the rear camera, and a new, front-facing camera for selfies. The U.S. price starts at \$120.

BEYOND THE DEVICES: Once you have these devices, what do you do with them?

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg said Internet.org, Facebook’s effort to create new users in countries with little or low Internet use, has now released apps in six countries—Ghana, Kenya, Tanzania, Zambia, Colombia and India—offering health, employment and other information services without incurring data charges. Apps are customized for each country, and Internet.org is working with individual wireless operators to lure new users without hurting the local telecoms’ businesses. For that reason, the app doesn’t include the competing WhatsApp messaging service, which Facebook owns.

Sundar Pichai, a vice president at Google, disclosed plans to start testing solar-powered drone aircraft as “floating cell towers” that could bring coverage to remote areas or even disaster zones. Google previously announced Project Loon to use high-altitude air balloons to provide coverage for rural areas. Pichai said Project Loon should be ready in about two years.

In the U.S., Pichai said Google will develop its own cellular service as “a project” to improve ways for hardware, software and connectivity to work together. He said Google is also working on Android Pay, a mobile-payment system for all Android devices (not just Samsung’s Android phones, as Samsung Pay will be limited to). Google recently bought technology to improve the Google Wallet payment service it already has.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

United Airlines won’t accept rechargeable battery shipments
WASHINGTON (AP)—Citing safety concerns, United Airlines says it will no longer accept bulk shipments of rechargeable lithium batteries of the kind that power everything from smartphones to laptops to power tools. United is the second major U.S. airline to decide it will no longer accept lithium-battery shipments. Delta Air Lines stopped accepting

the bulk shipments last month. It’s not uncommon for tens of thousands of the batteries to be shipped in a single cargo container aboard a passenger airliner on an international flight. Federal Aviation Administration tests over the past year show that when a single battery overheats it can result in a chain reaction, causing other batteries to short circuit and overheat. As they overheat, the batteries emit explosive gases. Several tests have resulted in fierce explo-

sions and fires.

Costco strikes credit card deal with Citi, Visa
NEW YORK (AP)—Costco says it struck a deal for Citi to be the exclusive issuer of its co-branded credit cards, with Visa replacing American Express as the card network. The deal is subject to Citi buying the company’s co-branded credit card portfolio, Costco said. Costco and American Express ended their partnership after failing to

reach an agreement on renewal terms. American Express said earlier this month that the relationship, which goes back 16 years, is set to expire March 31, 2016. Costco says the deal with Visa and Citigroup Inc. would take effect the next day. The deal means that Visa will be the only credit cards accepted at Costco stores. Currently Costco accepts only American Express credit cards, though it takes debit cards from other companies including Visa and Mastercard.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 18,288.63 +155.93 (0.86%)	S&P 2,117.39 +12.89 (0.61%)	NASDAQ 5,008.10 +44.57 (0.90%)
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EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7548	Philippine Peso	44.075
Australian Dollar	1.2765	Singapore Dollar	1.3629
British Pound	0.65	South Korean Won	1096.8
Canadian Dollar	1.251	Swiss Franc	0.9567
Chinese Yuan	6.2764	Taiwan Dollar	31.391
Euro	0.8929	Thailand Baht	32.3825

Nation

Netanyahu assails Iran deal, touts US-Israel ties

WASHINGTON (AP)—Benjamin Netanyahu and U.S. officials cast their dispute over Iran as a family squabble on Monday, even as the Israeli leader claimed President Barack Obama did not—and could not—fully understand his nation's vital security concerns.

"American leaders worry about the security of their country," Netanyahu said as he opened a controversial trip to Washington. "Israeli leaders worry about the survival of their country."

Netanyahu's remarks to a friendly crowd at a pro-Israel lobby's annual conference amounted to a warm-up act for his address to Congress Tuesday, an appearance orchestrated by Obama's political opponents and aimed squarely at undermining the White House's high-stakes bid for a nuclear deal with Iran.

Netanyahu tried to paper over his personal differences with Obama, insisting he was not in Washington to "disrespect" the president and saying any reports of the demise of U.S.-Israel ties were "not only premature, they're just wrong."

The prime minister's remarks were bracketed by speeches



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu acknowledges the crowd as he is introduced before speaking at the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) Policy Conference in Washington, Monday, March 2, 2015.

from a pair of top Obama advisers: U.N. Ambassador Samantha Power and National Security Adviser Susan Rice, whose address served as a preemptive rebuttal of Netanyahu's expected critique of the Iran negotia-

tions Tuesday.

With Secretary of State John Kerry opening a new round of talks with Iran in Switzerland, Rice said the U.S. was seeking a deal that would cut off "every single pathway" Iran has

to producing a nuclear weapon. She said Obama keeps all options on the table for blocking Tehran's pursuit of a bomb and declared that "a bad deal is worse than no deal."

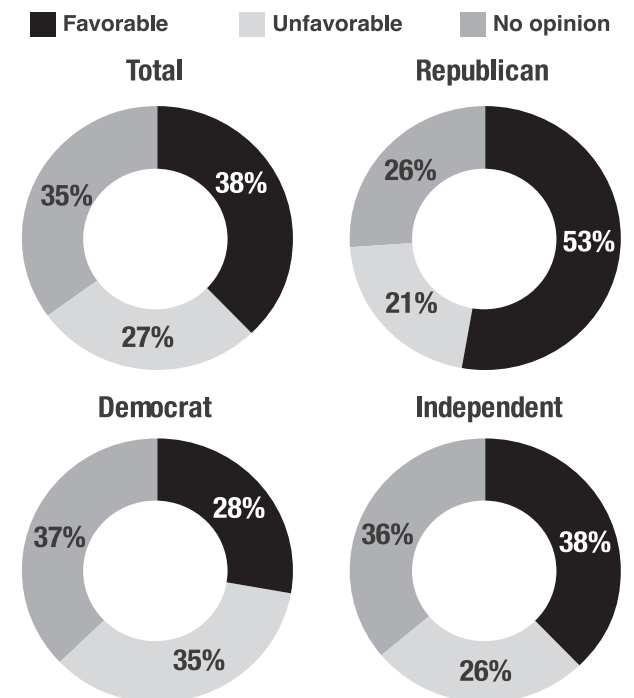
Still, Rice warned against holding out for "unachievable" outcomes, such as getting Iran to fully end domestic enrichment.

"As desirable as that would be, it is neither realistic or achievable," she said. "If that is our goal, our partners will abandon us."

Netanyahu appeared to be reserving his most specific criticism of the negotiations for his remarks to lawmakers. But he said he had a "moral obligation to speak up in the face of these

View of Netanyahu

The American public has a more positive than negative view of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu ahead of his address to a joint session of Congress this week.



Source: Pew Research Center
Graphic: Tribune News Service

dangers while there is still time to avert them."

Negotiators are working to reach a framework agreement before an end of March deadline. U.S. officials have reported progress toward a prospective agreement that would freeze Iran's nuclear program for at least 10 years but allow the Iranians to slowly ramp up in later years.

Obama spoke dismissively of Netanyahu's warnings about the risks of such a deal, saying the prime minister had previously contended Iran would not abide by an interim agreement signed in 2013 and would get \$50 billion in sanctions relief, a figure

the U.S. says is far too high.

"None of that has come true," Obama said in an interview with Reuters.

Obama views the prospect of a nuclear accord with Iran as a central component of his foreign policy legacy—as much as Netanyahu views blocking such a deal as a component of his own.

Netanyahu has been wary of Obama's diplomatic pursuits with Iran from the start, fearing the U.S. will leave Tehran on the cusp of being able to build a bomb. As the outlines of a deal have emerged and the deadline has drawn near, his criticism has become more forceful.

LA police chief: Man killed on Skid Row reached for gun

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Police fatally shot a homeless man on Skid Row during a "brutal" videotaped struggle in which a rookie officer cried out that the man had grabbed his gun, the Los Angeles police chief said Monday.

Video showed the man reaching toward the officer's waistband, Chief Charlie Beck said. The officer's gun was found partly cocked and jammed with a round of ammunition in the chamber and another in the ejection port, indicating a struggle for the weapon.

"You can hear the young officer who was primarily engaged in the confrontation saying that 'He has my gun.

He has my gun,'" Beck said. "He says it several times, with conviction."

Then three other officers opened fire.

The man was black, as is the rookie officer who was just short of completing his probationary year on the force, police said.

Beck's narrative of the shooting, including photos from video showing the condition of the gun, was rare, emerging just 24 hours after an officer-involved shooting. It came amid heightened attention to killings by police officers that have led to protests, some violent, across the country.

Sunday's violence had echoes of the August police

shooting of 25-year-old Ezell Ford, whose death in a struggle with LA officers brought demonstrations in the city. Ford was unarmed. Police said he was shot after reaching for an officer's gun.

Mayor Eric Garcetti said he and the police chief needed to respond quickly to reassure residents that there is a robust investigation into the shooting, which occurred in the downtown area that is home to the city's highest concentration of homeless people.

"I watched the video. I watched the tragic events on Skid Row unfold," the mayor said. "We owe the city a thorough investigation as to what happened."

Mom convicted of killing son, 5, by poisoning him with salt

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. (AP)—A woman who blogged for years about her son's constant health woes was convicted Monday of poisoning him to death by force-feeding heavy concentrations of sodium through his stomach tube.

A jury in the New York suburbs found Lacey Spears, of Scottsville, Kentucky, guilty of second-degree murder in the death last year of 5-year-old Garnett-Paul Spears.

The defense portrayed Spears as a caring mother and her son as sickly, but the prosecution argued Spears reveled in the at-

tention his illness brought her. Video showed Spears twice taking him into a hospital bathroom with a connector tube and him suffering afterward.

"The motive is bizarre, the motive is scary, but it exists," Assistant District Attorney Patricia Murphy said in closing arguments Thursday. "She apparently craved the attention of her family, her friends, her co-workers and most particularly the medical profession."

She suggested that Spears, 27, eventually killed the boy because she feared he would start telling people she was

making him ill. Spears' actions were "nothing short of torture," she said.

Several doctors testified there was no medical explanation for the spike in Garnett's sodium levels that led to his death.

But defense lawyer Stephen Riebling said there was no "direct evidence" of a crime and drew out from witnesses that Spears seemed devastated by her son's death. He said the hospital video was edited to eliminate tender scenes between mother and son, including one in which she puts two pairs of socks on him.

ACROSS THE NATION

Cleveland leaders apologize over blaming boy for own death

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cleveland's mayor apologized on Monday after the city's lawyers suggested in court documents that a 12-year-old boy who had a pellet gun when he was shot by police died as a result of his own actions. Mayor Frank Jackson said the city's response to a federal lawsuit filed on behalf of Tamir Rice's family was poorly worded and offensive. "We used words and we phrased things in such a way that was very insensitive," the mayor said. The court documents filed late last week by the city said Tamir's injuries and the subsequent complaints for damages stemmed from his actions and failure "to exercise due care to avoid injury." It similarly said the "injuries, losses and damages" cited for his relatives in the complaint "were directly and proximately caused by their own acts," not by the city.

Nurse who survived Ebola sues Dallas hospital system

DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas hospital that treated the first patient to be diagnosed in the U.S. with Ebola lied to Congress when it said its staff was trained to handle the deadly virus, a nurse who contracted the disease contends in a lawsuit filed Monday. Nina Pham, who was an intensive care unit nurse at Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital Dallas, says after being told last fall that she would be treating a patient suspected of having

Ebola, "the sum total" of information she was given to protect herself was "what her manager 'Googled' and printed out from the Internet." She says in her lawsuit that the day after getting that information, the patient, Thomas Eric Duncan, tested positive for the disease. Duncan, who contracted Ebola in his native Liberia but started showing symptoms during a trip to the U.S., died at the hospital. Pham, 26, and another nurse who treated Duncan, Amber Vinson, contracted the disease but recovered.

Execution of Ga. woman on hold pending Supreme Court ruling

JACKSON, Ga. (AP)—The execution of the first female in Georgia in 70 years was on hold Monday as the U.S. Supreme Court reviewed last-minute arguments by her lawyers that they hoped would persuade the nation's top justices to grant a stay. Kelly Renee Gissendaner, 46, was scheduled to die by injection of pentobarbital at 7 p.m. in the state prison for the February 1997 murder of her husband, Douglas Gissendaner. Still pending was a response from the high court after an appellate court rejected her lawyers' request for a delay on the grounds that Georgia's lethal-injection procedures aren't transparent enough to be challenged in court. Late Monday, her lawyers also added that the court should take into account the fact that she didn't kill her husband herself, and that she had been thoroughly rehabilitated.

Asia

China state media seen stepping up anti-Western rhetoric

BEIJING (AP)—Western values are a “ticket to hell,” a newspaper published by China’s Communist Party said in a recent editorial that held up Ukraine and some Arab countries as examples of outside ideas causing turmoil.

It was the latest colorful example of a rising level of invective targeting critics of the authoritarian government. In the two-plus years since President Xi Jinping took the helm of the ruling Communist Party, state media have become more strident in defending the one-party system and stoking nationalism.

Events of recent months have accelerated the trend. Last fall’s pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong opened floodgates of disdain against “anti-China” forces. Last week, the party tabloid Global Times laid into well-known blogger Ren Zhiqiang for questioning official warnings against Western values infiltrating Chinese college classrooms.

The newspaper pointed to turmoil in Ukraine and the Arab world to show how any adoption of Western models by non-Western countries “basically amounts to the copying of failure.”



AP
Foreigners chat as they walk past a digital display board stating “Long live the great People’s Republic of China, Long live the great unity of all ethnic groups” by China’s state media on display in Beijing Monday, March 2, 2015.

“No matter how beautiful they appear on the surface, they are in fact a ticket to hell, and can only bring disaster to the Chinese nation,” the newspaper said.

While Cold War brickbats

such as “running dogs of the American imperialists” have yet to return, there’s been an overall revival of tough language laying down the party’s bottom line and seeking to undermine opposing arguments.

Some critics fear a reversion to the extreme intolerance of the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, and will scrutinize the speeches at China’s annual ceremonial

legislature opening Thursday for more signs of the trend.

“Over the last two years or so, the propaganda has become less refined. There’s a big market for this kind of crude nationalism,” said Willy Lam, a Chinese politics expert at Hong Kong’s Chinese University.

The exchange involving the blogger followed a stern warning in January by Edu-

cation Minister Yuan Guiren against threats to communist ideological purity in higher education. His comments, in turn, reflected an internal party document, leaked in 2013, that warned against Western values such as constitutionalism, respect for civil society and press freedom.

A further echo was heard last week, when the president of the

Supreme People’s Court, Zhou Qiang, demanded that judges stand strong against Western concepts of judicial independence and division of powers.

“Resolutely resist the influence of erroneous Western thought,” Zhou said.

Such pronouncements are clearly being dictated from the highest party echelons, said Li Datong, a political commentator who has been removed from a state media senior editing job for broaching sensitive subjects.

“These people talking so harshly now were only recently espousing greater openness, not less. Clearly things have changed,” Li said.

Foreign countries and leaders are frequent targets.

The state media pilloried Britain after Prime Minister David Cameron met with the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan leader reviled by Beijing. Britain, the Global Times said in a December 2013 commentary, is no longer seen as a “big power” among Chinese, but as “just an old European country apt for travel and study.”

ASIAN BRIEFS

Prince William focuses on football and film on China trip

SHANGHAI (AP)—Britain’s Prince William focused his China trip on football and film Tuesday with an agenda including a movie premiere and an appointment to watch Premier League-trained coaches kicking balls around with students. The second-in-line to the throne is on a three-day trip to China on behalf of the U.K. government to open a festival celebrating British creativity and innovation, the first major event in a year of cultural exchange between the countries. As well as pushing Britain’s creative industries, he is aiming to forge business relationships between Britain and China. After arriving in Shanghai Monday evening, he opened the GREAT festival, which showcases entertainment, design, health care and fashion, and met with Chinese business leaders, including Jack Ma, an English teacher-turned-founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba.

Pakistan police arrest parents refusing kids’ polio vaccine

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Hundreds of parents in north-west Pakistan were arrested and jailed on charges of endangering public security after refusing to give their children polio vaccinations, officials said Monday. Parents targeted by police starting this past weekend were not arrested if they agreed to vaccinate their children, said Shakirullah Khan, a senior police officer in Peshawar. Feroz Shah, a spokesman for the district administration in Peshawar, capital of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, said 471 people were jailed in the city and surrounding villages under government orders. Authorities have made scattered arrests in the past for polio refusals, but such widespread arrests are rare.

China reports say 20 killed after bus falls off cliff

BEIJING (AP)—A bus carrying an opera troupe fell off a cliff in central China on Tuesday, killing 20 people and injuring 13, state media reported. The accident happened early Tuesday in Linzhou city in Henan province, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The bus was carrying members of a local opera troupe, according to the government of Anyang city, which oversees the smaller Linzhou. Linzhou police confirmed the accident in an online statement, but didn’t give details on how many people had been hurt or killed. It said there were 33 people onboard and that the vehicle had been hired by the troupe.

Nepal official says human waste on Everest a major problem

KATHMANDU, Nepal (AP)—Human waste left by climbers on Mount Everest has become a problem that is causing pollution and threatening to spread disease on the world’s highest peak, the chief of Nepal’s mountaineering association said Tuesday.

The more than 700 climbers and guides who spend nearly two months on Everest’s slopes each climbing season leave large amounts of feces and urine, and the issue has not been addressed, Ang Tshering told reporters. He said Nepal’s government needs to get the climbers to dispose of the waste properly so the mountain remains pristine.

Hundreds of foreign climbers attempt to scale Everest during Nepal’s mountaineering season, which began this week and runs through May. Last year’s season was canceled after 16 local guides were killed in an avalanche in April.

Climbers spend weeks acclimatizing around the four camps set up between the base camp at 5,300 meters (17,380 feet) and the 8,850-meter-high (29,035-foot-high) summit. The camps have tents and some essential equipment and supplies, but do not have toilets.

“Climbers usually dig holes in the snow for their toilet use and leave the human waste

there,” Tshering said, adding that the waste has been “piling up” for years around the four camps.

At the base camp, where there are more porters, cooks and support staff during the climbing season, there are toilet tents with drums to store the waste. Once filled, the drums are carried to a lower area, where the waste is properly disposed.

Dawa Steven Sherpa, who has been leading Everest clean-up expeditions since 2008, said some climbers carry disposable travel toilet bags to use in the higher camps.

“It is a health hazard and the issue needs to be addressed,” he said.

Nepal’s government has not come up with a plan yet to tackle the issue of human waste. But starting this season, officials stationed at the base camp will strictly monitor garbage on the mountain, said Puspa Raj Katuwal, the head of the government’s Mountaineering Department.

The government imposed new rules last year requiring each climber to bring down to the base camp 8 kilograms (18 pounds) of trash—the amount it estimates a climber discards along the route.

Climbing teams must leave a \$4,000 deposit that they lose if they don’t comply with the regulations, Katuwal said.

Students face off against Myanmar police outside Yangon

LETPADAN, Myanmar (AP)—Hundreds of police have formed a human chain around student protesters staging a sit-in on a road Tuesday after being blocked from marching to Myanmar’s biggest city.

The demonstrators—who have been rallying for more than a month and gaining public sympathy—want the government to scrap a newly passed education law that they say curbs academic freedom.

They were outnumbered by

police in the town of Letpadan, but neither side appears willing to back down. Security forces formed rows around the students four layers deep.

Myanmar started moving from a half-century of military rule toward democracy in 2011, but critics say the reforms that marked President Thein Sein’s early days in office have either stalled or the government has been retreating on them.

The education law, passed by parliament in September,

puts all decisions about policy and curriculum in the hands of a body made up largely of government ministers. It bans students from forming unions and ignores calls for local languages to be used in instruction in ethnic states.

Students say the law undermines the autonomy of universities, which are still struggling to recover after clampdowns on academic independence and freedom during years of dictatorship.

Police have repeatedly warned they would “take action to restore law and order” if the protesters tried to bring their rally to Yangon—140 kilometers (90 miles) south of Letpadan. Negotiations have been on again, off again.

The threat of an expanded protest is sensitive in Myanmar, in part because students were at the forefront of pro-democracy protests in 1988 that were crushed by a bloody military crackdown.

World

Iraq launches operation to retake Tikrit from Islamic State

BAGHDAD (AP)—Backed by Iranian-supported Shiite militias, Iraqi forces launched a large-scale offensive Monday to retake Saddam Hussein's hometown from the Islamic State group, the first in a series of campaigns to try to reclaim large parts of northern Iraq from the Sunni extremists.

Previous attempts to capture the symbolic city have failed, and hours into Monday's operation, the military said it still hadn't entered Tikrit, indicating a long battle lies ahead. Retaking it will help Iraqi forces secure a major supply link for any future operation to retake Mosul, Iraq's second-largest city which has been under militant rule since June.

State-run Al-Iraqiya television said that forces were attacking from different directions, backed by artillery and airstrikes by Iraqi fighter jets. It said the militants were dislodged from some areas outside the city, but several hours into the operation, it gave no additional details.

Tikrit, the provincial capital of Salahuddin province, 80



Iraqi Hezbollah fighters carry the coffin of their comrade, Ali Mansour, who his family says was killed in Tikrit fighting Islamic militants, during his funeral procession, in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, 100 miles (160 kilometers) south of Baghdad, Iraq, Monday, March 2, 2015.

Shiite militiamen and government forces in the smallest details of battle.

Fars also reported drones were flying over Tikrit, without identifying whether they were Iranian or Iraqi.

The military commander of Salahuddin region, Gen. Abdul-Wahab al-Saadi, told state TV fighting was taking place outside Tikrit mainly on its eastern side.

"Until this moment we have not entered the city," al-Saadi said. "God willing, we will enter, but we need some time as planned. ... God willing, victory will be achieved and Salahuddin will be turned into a grave for all terrorist groups."

Tikrit is an important test case for Iraq's Shiite-led government, which is trying to reassert authority over the divided country. Islamic State fighters have a strong presence in the city and are expected to put up fierce resistance.

Past attempts to retake Tikrit have failed, as Iraq struggles with its armed forces, which collapsed in the wake of the Islamic State group's offensive last summer.

The offensive comes as momentum has begun to shift since Iraqi soldiers, backed by airstrikes from the U.S.-led coalition, took back the nearby refinery town of Beiji in November. Any operation to take Mosul would require Iraq to seize Tikrit first because of its strategic location for military enforcements.

Iraq is bitterly split between minority Sunnis, who were an important base of support for Saddam, and the Shiite majority. Since Saddam was toppled in a U.S.-led invasion in 2003, the Sunni minority has felt increasingly marginalized by the Shiite-led government in Baghdad, and in 2006 long-running tensions boiled over into sectarian violence that claimed tens of thousands of lives.

'Jihadi John' won't have the same impact unmasked

LONDON (AP)—As "Jihadi John," he was a terrifying figure, his identity concealed by a black mask, his threatening tone backed up by his oversize, serrated knife and his willingness to use it in the name of Islamic State and its self-declared caliphate.

His professional-looking videos began with a political rant and ended with his victims lying dead at his feet, severed heads cupped in the sands of Syria. He seemed both judge and executioner, savoring each fresh kill.

After the 9/11 attacks on the U.S., many believed that terrorists would turn to crude weapons of mass destruction to attack cities. Few predicted that a man with a knife and a video production team could have such an impact using a

medieval technique.

Now that he has been exposed as Mohammed Emwazi, the tall man with the British accent and mocking tone is no longer a mystery. He is revealed as one more furious young Londoner, in this case a well-educated, middle-class jihadi in his mid-20s who turned against his adopted country after he moved to Britain from Kuwait as a boy.

His unmasking may well have reduced his usefulness to the cause.

For one thing, with his identity known, and the global distribution of pictures of him looking slightly goofy in an ill-fitting Pittsburgh Pirates baseball cap, Emwazi may become less sinister to viewers, less able to send chills up the spines of people who abhor Islamic

State's claim to be killing civilians in the name of Islam.

If he kills again on camera, the element of surprise will be gone and the reaction may well be, "Oh, him again."

Also, now that authorities know who he is, there is little doubt he will become the target of a drone attack if the U.S. or Britain can learn his precise whereabouts. The pressure on him could make him less valuable to Islamic State militants—perhaps even a liability.

Magnus Ranstorp, a terrorism specialist with the Swedish National Defense College, said Emwazi can be expected to play a reduced role in the organization because every time he speaks on a mobile phone he risks having his location pinpointed, sparking drone fire that could kill him and others.

miles (130 kilometers) north of Baghdad, fell to the Islamic State group last summer, along with Mosul and other areas in the country's Sunni heartland.

U.S. military officials have said a coordinated military mission to retake Mosul will likely begin in April or May and involve up to 25,000 Iraqi troops. But the Americans have cautioned that if the Iraqis aren't ready, the offensive could be delayed.

The U.S.-led coalition launching airstrikes targeting the Islamic State group was not involved in the Tikrit operation, Iraqi officials said. A Pentagon spokesman, Army Col. Steve Warren, said the U.S. was alerted to the offensive before it started Monday but was not asked to provide air power.

"Right now we are not providing any air power to support the Iraqi operation in the city of Tikrit," Warren told reporters in Washington. "We did note the Iraqi government's statements that they are emphasizing minimization of collateral damage, and we are continuing to monitor it."

Iraqi forces apparently have the help of Iranian Gen. Ghasem Soleimani, the commander of the elite Revolutionary Guard's Quds Force, who arrived two days ago, the Iranian semi-official Fars news agency reported.

The powerful general has emerged as the chief tactician in Iraq's fight against the Sunni militants, working on the front lines alongside dozens of advisers from his country's Revolutionary Guard to direct

WORLD BRIEFS

Polish top senator: Russia banned me from Nemtsov's funeral

WARSAW, Poland (AP)—Poland's Senate speaker said Monday that Russia's authorities have denied him entry into the country for the funeral of slain Kremlin critic Boris Nemtsov. Bogdan Borusewicz—Poland's leading opposition activist under communism—was to lead a delegation of Polish politicians and lawmakers attending Nemtsov's funeral Tuesday. Nemtsov was shot dead Friday night near the Kremlin. Borusewicz told reporters he was informed he would not get permission to enter Russia. It was not immediately clear if other members of the delegation would get their visas, but they were considering cancelling the trip. The ban comes at a time when Poland's ties with Russia are strained over the conflict in eastern Ukraine. Marcin Wojciechowski, spokesman for Poland's Foreign Ministry, said it was in response to European Union sanctions on the speaker of the upper house of the Russian parliament, Valentina Matviyenko.

Joe Biden in Guatemala to talk Central America funding

GUATEMALA CITY (AP)—U.S. Vice President Joe Biden has arrived in Guatemala for a two-day visit with Central American presidents to discuss funding priorities aimed at slowing migration. Last month, President Barack Obama included \$1 billion for Central America in the budget request he sent to Congress. Through the proposed investment, the U.S. hopes to reduce the high level of migration from Central America to the United States that has occurred in recent years. Last summer, the U.S. saw numbers of immigrants, especially mothers with children, from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador that overwhelmed U.S. immigration authorities in south Texas. Presidents of those countries are proposing projects that would spur economic development and improve security. Lack of economic opportunity and surging levels of violence in those countries drove many of the immigrants north.

Russia, Ukraine reach gas deal to avoid cuts this month

BRUSSELS (AP)—Russia and Ukraine reached an agreement late Monday to ensure natural gas supplies to war-torn Ukraine for the month of March, averting possible cuts that could have hit supplies to the European Union.

The two countries have fought several gas price wars in past years and Moscow had been threatening to turn off the taps to Ukraine on Tuesday unless it received outstanding prepayments, as agreed in a deal they clinched last October, the so-called winter package.

"I am satisfied that we managed to safeguard the full application of the winter package for the supply needs in Ukraine," said EU energy chief Maros Sefcovic after mediating emergency talks between Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak and his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Demchyshyn.

Demchyshyn said that both parties had agreed "to obey the rules" until the end of March.

Under the deal sealed in Brussels, Ukraine's Naftogaz will pre-pay and order suffi-

cient quantities of gas to ensure all domestic consumption for March and guarantee uninterrupted supplies to the EU. Gazprom commits to supply a set quantity of natural gas each day at agreed on delivery points.

The European Union imports around 40 percent of its gas from Russia, half through Ukraine.

Complicating the dispute has been deliveries to Ukraine's rebel-held east, where fighting between Kiev's forces and Russia-backed rebels has killed more than 6,000 people.

Focus

AP
In this photo taken Monday, April 28, 2014, Cattle Egrets fly past a Comb Duck on the banks of the Chambal River near village Bhojepura in the northern Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. The narrow 250-mile stretch of the Chambal is a place of crocodiles and jackals, of river dolphins and the occasional wolf. Hundreds of species of birds, storks, geese, babblers, larks, falcons and so many more, nest along the river. Endangered birds lay small speckled eggs in tiny pits they dig in the sandbars. Gharials, rare crocodile-like creatures that look like they swaggered out of the Mesozoic Era, are commonplace here and nowhere else.

Curses protected Indian river, but now it faces modern world

By **TIM SULLIVAN**
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BHAREH, India (AP)—For centuries, it was a curse that saved the river.

It was a series of curses, actually—a centuries-long string of unrelenting bad news in this rugged, hidden corner of northern India's industrial belt. There was an actual curse at first, a longheld belief that the Chambal River was unholy. There was the land itself, and the more earthly curse of its poor-quality soil. And above all there were the bandits, hiding in the badlands and causing countless eruptions of violence and fear.

But instead of destroying the river, these things protected it by keeping the outside world away. The isolation created a sanctuary.

It is a place of crocodiles and jackals, of river dolphins and the occasional wolf. Hundreds of species of birds—storks, geese, babblers, larks, falcons and so many more—nest along the river. Endangered birds lay small speckled eggs in tiny pits they dig in the sandbars. Gharials, rare crocodile-like creatures that look like they swaggered out of the Mesozoic Era, are commonplace here and nowhere else.

Today, tucked in a hidden corner of what is now a deeply polluted region, where the stench of industrial fumes fills the air in dozens of towns and tons of raw sewage is dumped every day into many rivers, the Chambal has remained essentially wild.

But if bad news saved the river, good news now threatens to destroy it. The modern world, it turns out, may be the most dan-

gerous curse of all.

SAGES AND BANDITS

The fears that shaped this region go back more than a thousand years, to when sages said the Chambal (the term refers both to the river and the rugged land around it) had been cursed and villagers whispered that it was unholy. In a culture where rivers have long been worshipped, farmers avoided planting along the river's banks.

"People always said things were different in this area," says a laborer working along the Chambal River on a hot afternoon. He is thin, with the ropy toughness and the distrust of outsiders so common here. He gives only his first name, Gopal. "People," he says, "were afraid to come."

A few centuries later the bandits arrived, men who hid in the maze of riverside ravines and kept outsiders away for generations.

They were the last true protectors of the Chambal, it turns out.

For hundreds of years, the outlaws ruled the labyrinth of scrub-filled ravines and tiny villages along the river. Spread across thousands of square miles, the Chambal badlands is a place where a dirt path can reveal a tangle of narrow valleys with 100-foot-high walls, and where a bandit gang could easily disappear.

The bandits' power—rooted in caste divisions, isolation and widespread poverty—was enormous. Countless governments, from Moghul lords to British viceroys to Indian prime ministers, vowed to humble them. Countless governments failed.

As India modernized—as

British rule gave way to independence, and a modern nation began to take shape—the Chambal remained a place apart, a feared region where politicians seemed more like criminals and where, in most villages, bandits were the true power.

"We were so isolated for so long," says Hemrudra Singh, a soft-spoken aristocrat with a crumbling family fort overlooking the Chambal River from the village of Bhareh. He understands that isolation well. Until 10 years ago, Bhareh could only be reached by boat during the monsoon season.

Only in the late 1990s did life in the Chambal begin to change significantly. Ancient dirt paths became paved roads, prying open villages that had been isolated for centuries.

The bandits' local political patrons were driven from power. Their foot soldiers were killed in shootouts with police, and their hideouts were forced deeper into the ravines by the spread of new roads. The last famed bandit, Nirbhay Gujjar, was killed by police in 2005.

Today, cellphone towers and motorcycle dealers and satellite TVs are everywhere. New businesses and new schools have opened, ushered in by years of Indian economic growth. Farmers struggling with the poor soil now have fertilizers and tractors.

In so many ways, that has been good news. Poverty remains widespread across the Chambal, but there are more roads now to get crops to market, and mobile phones to call the doctor when someone gets sick. Unemployment remains rampant, but there are occasion-

al new jobs.

With the good, though, came troubles that threaten the Chambal and its wildlife: polluting factories, illegal sand mining and fish poachers who hack at gharials with axes when the animals get tangled in their nets. As India's population and economy grows, more people are moving closer to the river.

Suddenly, the Chambal was no longer synonymous with lawlessness. Instead, it meant cheap land and untapped resources. Quickly, people began to come.

And almost as quickly, the problems began.

THE NEW CURSE

The garbage multiplied. So did construction projects near the river and, with them, industrial pollutants. Torn plastic bags now sometimes blow through the ravines, and small stone quarries dump refuse into creeks that feed the Chambal.

In 2007 and 2008, more than 100 dead gharials washed up on riverbanks—perhaps 25 percent of the world's wild gharials at the time. While scientists have never been able to pinpoint the cause, and the population has grown back to a degree, most experts believe pollution introduced a toxin into the river.

"In the old days, there weren't many people here to interfere with the river," said Dr. Rajiv Chauhan, a scientist and Chambal River expert with the India-based Society for Conservation of Nature. "But with the bandits gone, the pressure on the river is now just too much."

In theory, the wildest parts of the river are protected. A narrow

250-mile stretch of the Chambal was declared an official sanctuary in the late 1970s, closing it to everyone but longtime villagers, approved scientists and the handful of tourists who make it here.

But India's wildlife agencies are woefully undertrained and underfunded. Forestry officials often need to borrow boats to patrol the river. Banditry may have faded, but corruption is rampant: Locals who illegally cut firewood in the sanctuary pass forestry department checkpoints without challenge.

More factories are being built upstream from the sanctuary, and their pollutants are leaking into the river. Increased farming has caused a spike in dangerous fertilizer and pesticide runoff, scientists say. Billions of gallons of water are siphoned away for irrigation.

The most immediate worry is illegal sand mining, which can strip away thousands of tons of riverbank on a single day, causing immense amounts of silt to spill into the river, upsetting its delicate ecology.

Demand for sand has soared across India in recent years as the economy has grown, leaving an emerging middle class clamoring for housing. Since most new Indian housing is made of concrete, and concrete requires sand, the surge in building has given rise to a sprawling network of black-market sand dealers. The "sand mafia," as the Indian media calls it, has no qualms plundering the easy pickings along a wild riverbank.

Take a boat along the Chambal River on nearly any day, and the mafia's power quickly be-

comes clear.

Not far from the village of Bhojepura, dozens of tractors regularly snake down a dirt road to the river, pulling trailers filled with wiry, shovel-wielding men who hop down once they reach the riverbank. These are the sand mafia's labor force, men who can earn \$15 for a long, exhausting day of work. That is good pay around here.

The mining is illegal, but the laborers say their bosses have paid off local officials. While none of the miners will give their full names, they also make no effort to hide what they're doing. The mining area, perhaps 30 acres in total, can be easily seen from both banks of the river. While the men work, tractors rigged with loudspeakers blare Bollywood songs.

There's a calm beauty to the scene. Local villagers pass by, leading camels that leave footprints the size of dinner plates in the soft sand. When the breeze picks up, the camel bells clang.

But people like Singh, the aristocrat, worry of tomorrow. Asked if he is optimistic about the area's future, Singh simply looks at the floor and shakes his head.

The laborers, poor men who spend most of the year working on tiny farms, are concerned with making extra money, not with wildlife. And that is the biggest curse that the Chambal faces today: The path of progress, sometimes, leaves little room for anything else.

"What is a sanctuary?" says Gopal, the river laborer, his voice dripping with disdain. "What is a mammal? What is a bird? I don't have time to worry about these things."

Good Housekeeping

By STACI GIORDULLO
ANGIE'S LIST

Do you think your house is unsellable due to its location? Highly rated real estate agents on Angie's List explain how to sell a house, even in the most undesirable spot.

If the most important thing in real estate is "location, location, location," how do you sell your house if it's in a bad one?

Whether there's a freeway running overhead or a strip mall next door, a challenging piece of real estate isn't unsellable. "There are three components to selling a house: price, location and condition," says Realtor Kelly Clevenger of Coldwell Banker, Wallace & Wallace in Knoxville, Tenn. "That's the mixture you have to balance in order to sell. If your location is a negative, then your price in comparison to the homes around it is going to have to be lower, and the home's condition has to be better."

Clevenger says he recently represented a house for sale that backed up to railroad tracks. "People would be in the house and hear the train go by, and it would unnerve them," he says. "They loved the house, but couldn't get over the noise."

His strategy in selling the home was twofold: Get as many prospective buyers as he could through the door during open

How to sell the unsellable house



THINKSTOCK/TNS
Focusing on the positive attributes of a house can help distract potential buyers from any negatives, such as living close to an airport.

houses, and then have them talk to the neighbors, who offered assurance they'd get used to the noise. "The truth of it is, there's not a perfect home or a perfect location," he says. "Even if you're buying in the million-dollar range, it's still not going to be 100 percent perfect. It's just accepting that, hey, this home is 90 percent of what I want and I'm OK with that." Clevenger's approach with the railroad home, combined with aggressive pricing,

led to a sale in 63 days.

With a difficult location, an adjustment in pricing compared to other nearby homes that have recently sold is inevitable. "Sometimes this can be a 10 to 20 percent differential, depending on the severity of the location versus alternative properties for sale," says Realtor Wendy Tanson of Re/Max Winning Edge in Chapel Hill, N.C. "It's important to play up the positives of the location,

such as access to highways and amenities. The property needs to be in fantastic condition and staged as well."

After nine years and two children, Angie's List member Elle Barwidi was ready to sell her family's home in Twinsburg, Ohio. But she knew it was going to be a challenge because the house was on a very busy street. "With people watching so many popular housing shows, such as 'House Hunters' and 'Property Virgins,'

"It's the same with electrical. We could put in a new switch, an outlet or a ceiling fan, but we're not going to pull wiring."

■ Prepare your to-do list.

It's normal to need a million different odd jobs done around your house.

Payne says if a customer makes a list beforehand, it saves them money and saves him trips. "If I have a bunch of odds and ends, a honey-do list, you're going to get that done cheaper," he says.

■ **Keep that phone number handy.** One trip from the handyman may fix your current problem, but you'll have plenty of pictures and light fixtures to hang in the future.

Payne says he appreciates when customers call him back. "When I help these customers, I try to build a relationship with them," he says. "It's all about taking care of the customer."

Hire a handyman for honey-do list

By JAMES FIGY
ANGIE'S LIST

Tired of waiting for that honey-do list to get done? Consider hiring a handyman instead to tie up all those loose ends around your house. Just make sure to follow these five tips:

■ **Understand pricing.** Many handyman services, but not all, charge an hourly rate and a fee for travel.

Yvonne Costin, owner of Grandma's Handyman Service in Aurora, Colo., charges \$75 for the first hour and \$60 for each additional hour, plus a \$20 travel fee, for the employees she sends to people's homes. "We're basically a time, prep, material company," she says. "When people have a honey-do list, we can't give them an esti-

mate for that."

James Payne, owner of One Handyman and a Van in Mason, Ohio, says he doesn't offer a set rate, but determines how much to charge based on the length and difficulty of the job.

Tasks like changing out a garbage disposal could cost about \$100 if everything goes perfectly, he says, but unforeseen issues, especially in older homes, can result in a higher cost. "I prefer, before I start giving quotes to people, to look at it," he says.

■ Explain your problem in detail.

Handymen like to know what they're up against, so be prepared to tell them in as much detail as possible.

Payne says it helps him determine whether he wants to do the

job and what materials he might need. "I try to pick their brain before I drive 100 miles for 50 bucks," he says.

Costin says that sometimes when people explain their issues, she can help them solve them over the phone. "I love giving advice," she says. "That's what grandmas do."

■ **Know the scope.** Handyman services stick to smaller jobs. They won't rewire or replumb your house.

Although Costin says she often refers people to licensed electricians and plumbers, she points out that a handyman service will do jobs that those contractors often label too small.

"If all someone wanted is a kitchen faucet or a bathroom faucet, then we're less expensive than a plumber," she says.

COMFORT FOOD

Mushroom and Onion Burgers

By HEALTHY EXCHANGES
(C) 2015 KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

Take ordinary burgers into the realm of extraordinary with the simple addition of a few carefully selected ingredients.

■ 16 ounces extra-lean ground sirloin beef or turkey breast

■ 1/2 cup finely chopped onion

■ 1 cup finely chopped fresh mushrooms

■ 6 tablespoons dried fine breadcrumbs

■ 1 teaspoon dried parsley flakes

■ 1 tablespoon Worcestershire sauce

■ 2 tablespoons water

1. Plug in and spray both sides of a double-sided grill with butter-flavored cooking spray.

2. In a large bowl, combine meat, onion, mushrooms, breadcrumbs, parsley flakes, Worcestershire sauce and water. Mix well to combine.

3. Using a 1/2 cup measuring cup as a guide, form into 6 patties. Evenly arrange pat-

ties on prepared grill. Close lid and grill for 5 to 6 minutes or until burgers are cooked to desired doneness.

4. Serve hot as is, or place on hamburger bun with lettuce and tomato slice. Makes 6 servings.

• Each serving equals: 137 calories, 5g fat, 16g protein, 7g carb., 133mg sodium, 1g fiber; Diabetic Exchanges: 2 Meat, 1/2 Vegetable.

live in this home?" says real estate broker Lori Jo Smith of Bellingham, Wash. "If you live in it long term, at least 10 years, the consequences that are negative are going to diminish." But keep your expectations realistic and purchase the lot for the level of discount that you think you'll assume when you sell the house.

"It's also key to not build the most expensive house on the street," Tanson says. "Given that your home will be sold at a discount relative to others, you will gain more of your investment if you don't build the premium home on the least premium lot."

Keeping resale value in mind is key. "You have to think like a seller while you buy it," says Realtor Sally Messenger of Howard Hanna Real Estate in Pepper Pike, Ohio. "You're buying it new, so it's got a bang to it. Once the houses are built, it's a little less shiny. If you have the one house that has the highway behind it, you're going to have trouble with that. I tell people: if you buy that house, and you call me to sell it, don't be surprised when I list it for less than what you've bought it for."

Of course, sometimes a house in an unfortunate location isn't any fault of the owners. "Some properties were in the right location when they bought them, but now they're in the wrong location, whether something was built up next to it, or things have moved out," Messenger says. "Price cures all ills. When the price is right, there's someone who will buy it. There may be a limited number of buyers, but at the right price, you can sell a house in the middle of a cemetery."

NOW HERE'S A TIP

By JOANN DERSON
KING FEATURES SYND., INC.

■ "This tip is good for an inexpensive watch or a piece of jewelry that tends to rust or discolor on the skin-facing side. Clean it well and "paint" the side facing your skin with clear nail polish."—M.T. in Alabama

■ "Here is a fun idea for a baby shower, especially if you have a small group: Have a supply of baby onesies, fabric paint and fabric markers, and have guests personalize a onesie for the baby. They are so easy to create and so necessary for Mom and Dad."—T.B. in Florida

■ If you want to make a message station for dry-erase notes, try this cheap and fun DIY trick: Grab a picture frame with a glass insert. Use a photo, pretty piece of patterned paper or a piece of your child's artwork covered by a sheet of tracing paper in the frame. Hang on the wall. You can write on the glass with a dry-erase marker and erase as needed.

■ Shower caps are an outstanding substitute for plastic wrap when covering a large plate or bowl. They are easily cleaned, super easy to use and can be found cheap at your local dollar store!

■ "Do you have a toddler or preschooler who likes to lock him- or herself in the bathroom? This happened to us, and we found a great solution. We slipped a small section of pool noodle slit down the side over the door, high enough to be out of reach of little hands. The door simply won't close (or slam!), but an adult can easily take it off if necessary. This has been a lifesaver, because we were about to take the doorknob off!"—A.P. in Nevada

■ For a fun magnet board, paint inexpensive burner covers and mount on the wall. Since they're metal, kitchen magnets will work easily.

Send your tips to Now Here's a Tip, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475 or e-mail JoAnn at heresatip@yahoo.com.

Life & Style

Singer John Legend talks about justice at Bahrain concert

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP)—Award-winning American singer and songwriter John Legend took to the stage in Bahrain on Monday night, performing to a sold-out crowd of more than 2,000 people despite calls by some activists to cancel the concert due to concerns over human rights abuses in the Gulf Arab nation.

"When you look at me you might see international superstar John Legend, but I'm also the descendant of slaves... but we fought for change," he told the concert-goers before singing his Oscar-winning song "Glory," the anthem for the film "Selma," which is based on the historic 1965 march in Alabama led by Martin Luther King Jr.

While not addressing the turmoil in Bahrain directly, Legend explained he was at the festival "to celebrate art and its power to bring us together and help us see each other's humanity."

"I feel like it's part of my job to express myself freely and passionately about the issues that I care about," he said, as the crowd cheered in support.

"A just society is not one built on fear or repression or vengeance or exclusion, but

one built on love," added Legend, who has spoken out in support of freedom of expression and civil rights issues in the United States.

Bahrain, a close U.S. ally that hosts Navy's 5th fleet, has seen nearly daily protests by members of the Shiite majority demanding a greater say in the Sunni-led monarchy. Several thousand protesters have been jailed and dozens killed in the tiny-island nation over the last four years.

The concert was guarded by anti-riot police vehicles outside the entrance to the historic open-air Arad Fort in Bahrain's capital.

Several Bahraini activists took to Twitter to urge Legend to boycott the 10th annual Spring of Culture festival, organized by the Bahrain Authority for Culture and Antiquities.

In a statement to The Independent newspaper before the concert, Legend addressed calls for him to back out of the Bahrain show, and said he has "spent quite a bit of time thinking about human rights, civil rights and other issues of justice." He said that he felt participating in the conversation was the best way to drive progress.

Bahrain's leading human rights activist, Nabeel Rajab, took a softer stance toward Legend's visit than others. He

told The Associated Press that he is a fan and welcomes Legend to the country, but would also like to introduce him to relatives of political prisoners.

"I am not against any kind of cultural event and I see that the U.S. civil-rights movement is an inspiration to many Bahraini human rights figures", Rajab said.

John Legend performs in Muharraq, Bahrain, Monday night, March 2, 2015. AP



DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In Celebration of Her New Life

Rosa Benavente Royal

Lovingly known as "Chai/Nan Chai"

Born to Life on July 18, 1939

Called to her Eternal Life by our Dear Lord
on Wednesday, February 25, 2015



In Her New Life, She now Joins Her:

PARENTS: Guillermo Villagomez & Carmen Manahane Benavente

HUSBAND: Takeshi A. Royal

BROTHERS/SISTERS & IN-LAWS: Antonio M. & Victoria M. Benavente, Roman M. & Dolores T. Benavente, Fernando M. & Faustina S. Benavente, Ignacio M. & Isabel A. Benavente, Margarita B. & Jose I. Seman, Ana B. & Felipe Aldan, Maria B. & Rudy Sedmik, and Charles Helstrom.

Her Spirit and Memories will Live Forever in the Hearts of Her:

CHILDREN: William & Cecilia Benavente & Family
Thelma & Rufin S. Inos & Children
Joseph & Janet Benavente & Children
Esther & Paul S. Delos Reyes & Family
James Benavente & Vince Lopez
Elizabeth & Melvin Camacho & Family
Kelby & Bonnie T. Royal & Family
Bernadita Benavente Helstrom

SISTER:

She is additionally survived by numerous nieces, nephews, relatives & godchildren.

Daily Mass is offered at 6:00pm at Saint Jude Church, except on Saturday at 7:00am and Sunday at 6:00am. Nightly rosary is offered immediately after the mass, except for Saturday (2/28) and Sunday (3/01) will be at 6:30pm.

On Thursday, March 5, 2015, her remains will leave the Borja Funeral Home at 10:00 a.m. and will be escorted to Mount Carmel Cathedral for viewing and praying of last respects. Rosary will be at 11:00 a.m. by the Christian Mothers.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 2:00 p.m. followed by Internment Service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your Thoughts and Prayers are Greatly Appreciated

The Family

Ming-Na Wen: 'S.H.I.E.L.D.' role makes me a cool mom

NEW YORK (AP)—Ming-Na Wen says although she may play ace pilot and weapons expert Melinda May on "Agents of S.H.I.E.L.D.," the television series about the Marvel Comics organization has become her arsenal for getting her children to think she's cool.

"They love the show," says Wen. She says that when her 9-year-old son, Cooper Dominic, saw the show debut at San Diego Comic Con in 2013, "He was like, 'Mom! I didn't know you could fly a plane. That is so cool!'"

Wen says her son and her 14-year-old daughter, Michaela, are especially amazed because her kick-butt TV persona is so very different from the mom they know—a "girlie girl" who loves wearing sundresses. "I laugh all the time and I'm always smiling and mommy's the one that does

the cooking and mommy's a klutz," she says.

The 51-year-old actress says her kids' rave reviews are the best she could ask for. "For me, my career could be over right then and there and I'd be happy."

Wen says she's also excited about the remainder of the show's second season, which returns from its winter hiatus Tuesday at 9 p.m. (0200 GMT) on ABC. She says the series picks up right where it left off—focusing on S.H.I.E.L.D. agent Skye Johnson, who fans have learned is an Inhuman, Marvel's name for a fictional race of superhumans that appears in various Marvel comic books.

She says the introduction of the Inhumans brings a new element to the show that "fans have been dying for, to have some characters with superpowers."



Wen



'Suge' Knight taken to hospital after court hearing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former rap mogul Marion “Suge” Knight told a judge that he is suffering from blindness and other health complications moments before he was taken to a hospital Monday morning.

Knight told Los Angeles Superior Court Judge James Brandlin that he had fired attorneys handling his murder case and was receiving inadequate medical treatment while in custody.

The Death Row Records co-founder said he was blind in one eye and had only about 15 percent vision in his other eye during a brief court appearance on Monday. Knight said he was having difficulty comprehending the proceedings and told the judge he had been shot six times last year and had a blood clot in his lungs and other complications. He also said he had lost 35 pounds as a result of his injuries.

Brandlin transferred Knight’s case to another judge, and he was taken for medical care before his case could be called in Judge Ronald Coen’s courtroom. Coen said before calling the case that Knight had been

taken to a hospital, but he did not elaborate.

Knight has pleaded not guilty to murder, attempted murder and hit-and-run charges after he struck two men with his truck, killing one, on Jan. 29. He remains held without bail.

Attorney David Kenner, who has represented Knight since the case was filed, told Coen that his client has been jailed too long and a hearing to set bail should be convened as soon as possible. Coen ordered another hearing for Knight on March 9, although a bail hearing may not occur until March 20.

Deputy District Attorney Cynthia Barnes on Monday repeated a previous statement that she plans to introduce evidence of several crimes Knight was never charged with during the bail hearing.

Knight said he had fired Kenner and his law partner, telling Brandlin, “I fired these lawyers.”

Monday’s hearing marks the third time Knight has been taken from a courthouse for medical care since he was charged with murder in early February.

AP
Marion “Suge” Knight makes an appearance at the Criminal Courts Building on Monday, March 2, 2015, in Los Angeles.

Knight repeatedly tried to speak during the hearing in Brandlin’s courtroom, but the judge admonished him not to interrupt. Knight sat down and muttered an expletive while Brandlin quickly concluded the proceedings. Knight wore orange jail attire and glasses during the hearing, and he spoke while flanked by deputies.

Paramedics were summoned to look at Knight before the hearing, and deputies placed a trash can in front of him after he began his tirade about his health and lawyers.

Knight, 49, was shot six times at a nightclub in August. Within days of his release from the hospital, he was accused by a celebrity photographer of stealing her camera.

Prosecutors charged Knight and comedian Katt Williams with robbery over the incident, and both men have pleaded



not guilty.

Knight faces up to life in prison if convicted of killing Terry

Carter, 55, during a confrontation at a Compton burger stand in late January. Kenner has said

Knight was ambushed, but that assertion hasn’t been made in court yet.

Julianne and Derek Hough to hit the road again this summer

NEW YORK (AP)—Sibling performers Derek and Julianne Hough have a busy summer ahead.

They’re hitting the road for the second year in a row for their “Move Live on Tour,” where they dance and sing before a live audience.

This time, they’re upping the ante with added tour dates, bigger venues, all new choreography and bigger production values.

Fan interaction is also an important element, both on stage and off. They participate in meet-and-greets before performances and often dance with audience members during the show.

“We want everybody to be up on their feet, moving in their seat, having a good time and to leave feeling inspired,” said Julianne in a phone interview.

She says they haven’t started rehearsing for “Move Live” yet because of their busy sched-

ules. She’s returning to judge on “Dancing with the Stars” and Derek will once again compete on the show. That means he’ll juggle “Dancing” in Los Ange-

les with the “New York Spring Spectacular” at Radio City Music Hall.

“Trust me, nobody was more surprised than I was,” said Juli-

anne of that revelation. “I was like, ‘Wait. What? You’re going to be flying back-and-forth and we’re trying to create a tour? Are you nuts?’”



Dancers Derek Hough and Julianne Hough participate in AOL’s BUILD Speaker Series to discuss their upcoming “Move” live dance tour at AOL Studios on Monday, March 2, 2015, in New York.

Veronica Roth working on new series; 1st book due in 2017

NEW YORK (AP)—Veronica Roth fans can start the countdown.

The “Divergent” author is set to write a new two-book series, HarperCollins Children’s Books told The Associated Press on Monday. The books currently are untitled, with the first one expected in 2017 and the next in 2018.

Roth and her publisher offered few specifics, beyond saying the series is in “the vein of ‘Star Wars’” and will tell of a boy’s “unlikely alliance” with an enemy.

“Both desperate to escape

their oppressive lives, they help each other attain what they most desire: for one, redemption, and the other, revenge,” the publisher announced.

In a recent email to the AP, Roth wrote that “The idea started with a character. All the other elements—setting, world, even a substantial portion of the plot—came after.” She added that while she had a “pretty detailed” outline for the new series, she was still in the early stages of writing.

“That’s why I’m being so



Roth

vague,” she explained.

“Divergent,” a Dystopian trilogy Roth completed in 2013, has sold more than 30 million copies and along with Suzanne Collins’ “The Hunger Games” and John Green’s books

helped perpetuate the strong growth of young adult novels. The first “Divergent” movie, starring Shailene Woodley as teen heroine Tris Prior, came out a year ago and quickly earned more than \$100 million at the box office. Three more

movies are planned, starting with the March 20 release of “Insurgent.”

A Chicago resident, the 26-year-old Roth was still in college when she began “Divergent,” writing it in her jammies while on winter break from Northwestern University. She is now one of the world’s most popular authors.

“I think I’d have to be a robot not to occasionally worry about expectations!” she wrote to the AP. “But mostly I try to trust my instincts. It helps that I’m really in love with this project—that makes it a joy to work on.”

Lea Salonga says she is in talks on taking a role in ‘Allegiance’

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Tony award winner Lea Salonga says talks have not yet been finalized on her joining the cast of George Takei’s musical “Allegiance” on Broadway, but added it is a show she wants to be part of.

The Broadway veteran played the lead female role Kei Kimura when the musical made its sold-out premiere in 2012 at the Old Globe in San Diego, California.

“Star Trek” actor Takei’s personal and heartfelt show about Japanese-Americans imprisoned during World War II goes to Broadway this fall with him in a starring role.

“Of course I’d like to be a part of it, if only to be part of something that’s very important in Broadway history,” Salonga told The Associated Press in a telephone interview late Monday.

But she said things were still being discussed by her agent and the show producers, so she could not say if she will be part of the musical.

“Allegiance” is multigenerational tale with two love stories that’s framed by a Japanese-American war veteran looking back on his family’s time in a Wyoming internment camp. Previews begin Oct. 6. It will mark the first Asian-led cast of a musical on Broadway in more than a decade, since “Flower Drum Song.”

The story of “Allegiance” covers an important part of American history, when tens of thousands of Asian-Americans were put in camps just

because they looked like the enemy, said Salonga. “This kind of prejudice and bigotry is actually still happening,” added the 44-year-old Salonga. “It’s still relevant and that’s the sad and scary part of it.” She said with very few Asian-led musicals on Broadway, “Allegiance” is “a big, big deal” and also excites her because it will be another milestone for Takei.

The actor famous for playing Hikaru Sulu in “Star Trek” turned his childhood memories in an internment camp into the musical. “George Takei who is almost 80 years old is going to make his Broadway debut which is really, really exciting for me as a friend of his and as one who worked with him and he’s somebody I used to watch on TV when I was a kid,” she added. Takei turns 78 next month.

Salonga—the original “Miss Saigon” in London and New York who also starred in the Broadway revival of “Flower Drum Song” in 2002—will have a concert on March 14 at the Town Hall in New York. She has also been busy as a coach in “The Voice of the Philippines” singing contest that ended its second season Sunday. She continues as coach in the next season of the kid’s edition of the contest. Salonga said she loves grooming the next generation of artists in the Philippine music industry. “It’s something I would like to do even off camera, even when I’m not in front of an audience,” she said.

Paula Deen reaches new book distribution deal with Hachette

NEW YORK (AP)—Paula Deen has found a new publishing home.

Hachette Book Group announced Monday that it had reached a distribution deal with the celebrity chef's Paula Deen Ventures. Hachette's plans include selling and distributing a new title, "Paula Deen Cuts the Fat," and reissuing such older works as "The Lady & Sons" and "A Savannah Country Cookbook." Todd McGarity, Hachette's vice president



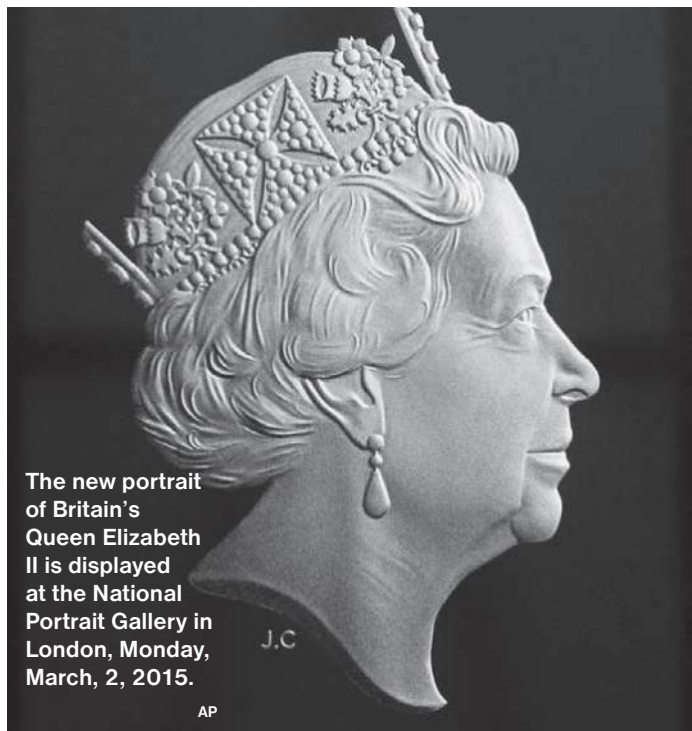
Deen

of client distribution services, said in a statement that Deen's "trademark warmth and culinary flair are as appealing as ever."

In 2013, Ballantine Books canceled a multibook deal with Deen after the deposition in a discrimination lawsuit filed by an ex-employee of Deen's revealed that she had admitted using racial slurs. Other companies also ended relations with her.

Deen launched Paula Deen Ventures in 2014.

Royal Mint unveils new coinage portrait of Queen Elizabeth II



The new portrait of Britain's Queen Elizabeth II is displayed at the National Portrait Gallery in London, Monday, March, 2, 2015.

AP

LONDON (AP)—Britain's Royal Mint has unveiled a new portrait of Queen Elizabeth II that will soon appear on coins.

The portrait—a side profile of the 88-year-old monarch wearing a crown and drop earrings—is only the fifth to have been created during the queen's reign over six decades.

Gordon Summers, the chief engraver at the Royal Mint, said

the task was "probably one of the most difficult things for any artist or sculptor to do."

Coins featuring the new design go into production Monday, though they won't begin to be circulated until later in the year.

Although portraits of the queen have changed over time, a tradition that has remained constant is that the queen is always shown facing right.

Sara Gilbert welcomes baby boy with wife Linda Perry

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Sara Gilbert shared the news of her new baby on "The Talk."

Co-host Julie Chen announced on Monday's episode that Gilbert welcomed a son over the weekend. It's Gilbert's first with wife Linda Perry.

Chen said Rhodes Emilio Gilbert Perry was born Saturday. Fellow host Sharon Osbourne showed a photo of the newborn.

Gilbert and Perry were married in March 2014.

The 40-year-old Gilbert may be best known for her starring role on the long-running TV comedy "Roseanne." She's also a creator and co-host of "The Talk."

Perry is a singer, songwriter, producer and former front woman of the rock group 4 Non Blondes.

Gilbert has two children from a previous relationship.



In this March 15, 2014 file photo, Linda Perry, left, and Sara Gilbert arrive at L.A. Gay and Lesbian Center "An Evening with Women" Kick Off Concert Event in West Hollywood, Calif.

Disneyland memorabilia auction brings in \$1.7 million

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A Disneyland memorabilia collector has taken a cue from the movie "Frozen" and decided to "Let It Go."

Van Eaton Galleries says nearly 1,000 items—including a bird from the Enchanted Tiki

Room and an original "Pirates of the Caribbean" skeleton—brought in \$1.7 million during a weekend auction held online and in Sherman Oaks, California.

Bids came from around the world.

The top seller was a green

1970s-era animatronic Tiki Room bird, which fetched \$153,400. The 1967 "Pirates" skeleton, which holds a cutlass and chugs from a bottle, went for \$129,800.

Other items offered by the anonymous collector were the

original Frontierland cigar store Indian, a 1960s Mark Twain Riverboat life preserver, a doll from "It's a Small World" and poster artwork for "Captain EO."

Prices included a buyer's premium, which is an additional charge on the winning bid.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Clive Owen to make Broadway debut in Pinter's 'Old Times'

NEW YORK (AP)—Clive Owen will make his Broadway debut in "Old Times" by Harold Pinter. Roundabout Theatre Company said Monday that Owen will star in the "unsettling drama of desire and blurred realities" starting Sept. 17 at one of its Broadway theaters. Douglas Hodge will direct. Owen received an Oscar nomination for his role in "Closer." He played Romeo at the Young Vic, starred in Sean Mathias' staging of Noel Coward's "Design for Living" and played the lead role in the original production of Patrick Marber's "Closer." In 2001, he starred in London in Peter Nichols' "A Day in the Death of Joe Egg." In "Old Times," a married couple welcomes the wife's old friend for a visit, which kicks up old memories, verbal games and classic Pinter amounts of menace.

Brokaw memoir about his battle with cancer coming in May

NEW YORK (AP)—Tom Brokaw is sharing the news about his battle with cancer. The former NBC anchor has a memoir coming out May 12, Random House announced Monday. The book is called "A Lucky Life Interrupted," and will draw upon a journal that Brokaw began keeping in 2013 after learning he had multiple myeloma. Brokaw, 75, said in a statement issued through Random House that he hoped his book would "help others dealing with this unwelcome condition." Brokaw's previous books include the best-selling "The Greatest Generation" and "A Long Way From Home: Growing Up in the American Heartland in the Forties and Fifties."

Husband's secret texting puts his wife on high alert

DEAR ABBY: I was recently told by a friend that my husband had sent her texts of an inappropriate and sexual nature. My husband didn't deny that he sent them and refused to tell me what he sent.

This woman is envious of my husband and jealous of our relationship. She often comments about how she'd love to have a man like mine, etc. My concern is, he admits he texted her, but I don't understand why. My intuition tells me she told me the truth, but I want to trust my husband.

Now I'm suspicious. I always want to check his phone, and analyze every aspect of our life and marriage. I feel this has put a huge wedge between us, and I no longer feel the same love and passion for him. Please help. What do I do now? Is my marriage over?

SUSPICIOUS IN MICHIGAN

DEAR SUSPICIOUS: Your marriage may not be over, but it could be in jeopardy. Considering what has been going on, you have every right to be concerned.

Marriage counseling may help you and your husband get back on track if he's willing to go with you. But if he isn't, then for your own sake, get counseling on your own because you may need to talk to someone who isn't emotionally involved in your turmoil. It will make you stronger.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: Every time my new wife and I visit my mom or she visits us, my mother scratches my back, rubs my arm, rests her hand on my inner thigh, tickles me, hugs me or touches me any

chance she gets. I don't reciprocate or validate the touching, but I don't discourage it either. She has been this way for so long that I've just gotten used to it. I never noticed how creepy it was until my wife mentioned something.

The problem is, how do I address this with my mother? I don't want to throw my wife under the bus as the reason for the discussion, but I am not sure how believable it will be if I suddenly say after 30-plus years that it bothers me. I want the message that I feel she should stop touching me at every opportunity to come from me. How do I have this conversation? What can I say?

NO MEANS NO

DEAR NO MEANS NO: Say, "I love you, Mom, and I know I should have mentioned this before, but when you do that, it makes me uncomfortable, so please stop." If she wants to know why, all you have to do is tell her you know she loves you, but you think what she's doing is excessive.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: We go out to eat occasionally with another couple I'll call Jack and Jill. Most restaurants around here offer free refills on soft drinks or self-serve. Jack will order water (free) to drink while Jill orders a soda. They then take their empty glasses and refill them with a colorless soft drink.

They see nothing wrong with the practice. We think it's stealing, and we are embarrassed. What are your thoughts, and how should we react when this is done in front of us? Lately we have been

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



making excuses to avoid going out with them.

EATING WITH CHEAPSKATES

DEAR E.W.C.: I agree that it's stealing. Jack and Jill are taking something to which they are not entitled. Have you spoken to them about it? If you have, then because their behavior makes you uncomfortable, you are justified in not going out with them.

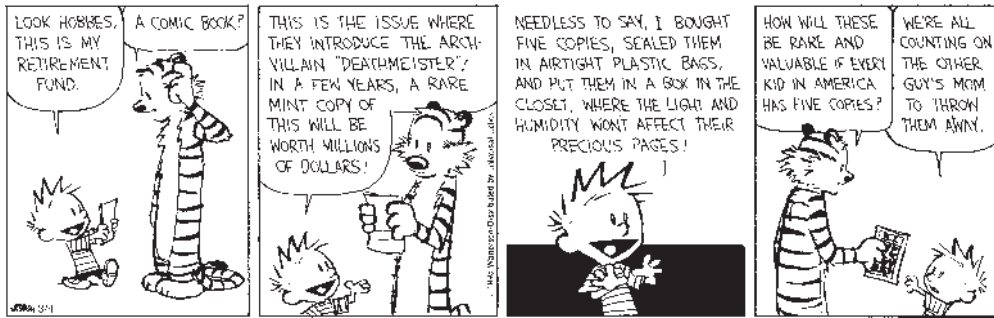
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



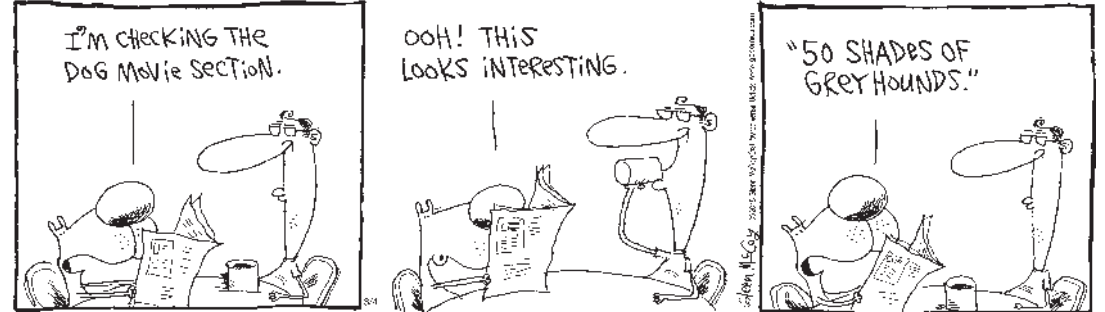
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

27 Two, in Tijuana

28 Dieter's entree

30 "Gee, ya think?"

33 Neil Diamond classic

36 Checked cotton fabric

37 Like Chicago, it's said

38 Mah-jongg pieces

39 Therefore

40 Roulette bet

41 Rotation duration

DOWN

1 Ripple

2 Help a prankster

3 "You betcha!"

4 Whale foe

5 "Wow!"

6 Use an old phone

7 Understand, in sci-fi lingo

8 Washing-ton's successor

9 Non-sense

10 Wilde-beest

12 Entangle-ments

14 Diner employee

15 Foreman

19 Pale

20 Still

21 Throng

22 Go postal

23 Phobia

24 Pro-vided an income for

25 Egos' counter-parts

26 Sculpting mediums

28 Subway entrance

29 Played a part

30 Unclean

31 Destroy

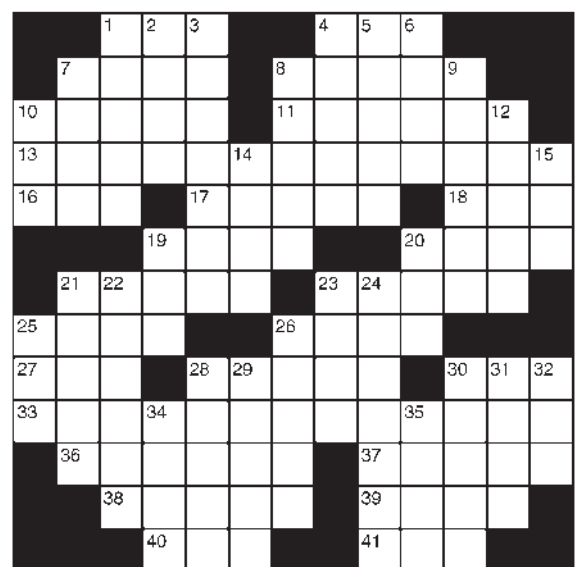
32 "Yo!"

34 Eastern potentate

35 Old Italian money

Solution time: 23 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-4



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Chaz Bono, 46; Patricia Heaton, 57; Mykelti Williamson, 58; Catherine O'Hara, 61.

Happy Birthday: Being realistic will make a difference. If you demonstrate honesty and integrity, you will stabilize your life. Any deviation from the truth will backfire and could cause others to view you as something you're not. Being happy with who you are and what you have to offer will determine how much you will achieve. Focus on personal growth and getting along with others. Your numbers are 7, 10, 22, 25, 33, 40, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Be careful what you reveal. Someone will misinterpret you if you say too much. Emotional deception is apparent. Establish your position and you will gain the freedom you need to turn a situation in your favor. Don't make any impulsive moves. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Connect with interesting people. You will benefit from what you learn and the experience you get by taking part in projects or activities. A new outlook will lead to satisfaction. Communication with elders, children or peers will open your eyes. *****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): It's what you do for others that will make a difference. Take the initiative to make your projects stand out. No matter what you want to accomplish, being proactive will be your ticket to getting positive results. **

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Speak up and you will command an audience. There is plenty to gain if you follow your

heart and express your emotions and concerns. A change will benefit you if you don't complain or make a fuss. Embrace the future. ****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You can make things happen. Jump into a leadership position and show everyone what you are capable of doing. A partnership will turn out to be gratifying and the perfect balance to help you hone your skills and execute them with finesse. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Face emotional issues head-on so that you can put the past behind you and move forward. Use any opportunity you get to express your likes and dislikes, and you'll get a better idea where you stand and what to do next. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Sharing with others will result in balance and equality. A new hobby or creative project will lead to new connections and new beginnings. Romance is apparent, but emotional deception is likely to hinder the outcome. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Put your heart and soul into unusual projects that can improve your home environment and save you money. A home-based business will bring in extra cash. Someone older or with more experience will give you the push you need to excel. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Take charge and get things underway. Plan an adventure, visit a friend or confess your feelings to someone you want to get to know better. Let your imagination run wild, and make changes that improve your surroundings. *****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Put your finances in order. Make changes based on what you see and hear. Don't give anyone a chance to take advantage of you. A lifestyle change will improve your health, but only if you maintain control of the situation. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Question your past work and professional choices, and make the changes that will help you utilize all the experience you have gathered along the way to find a moneymaking venture that suits your current situation. Romance is encouraged. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Mix business with pleasure. Take on a job that you find entertaining and easy. Don't let the demands someone puts on you keep you from doing the things you want to do. Share your success and you will avoid interference. ***

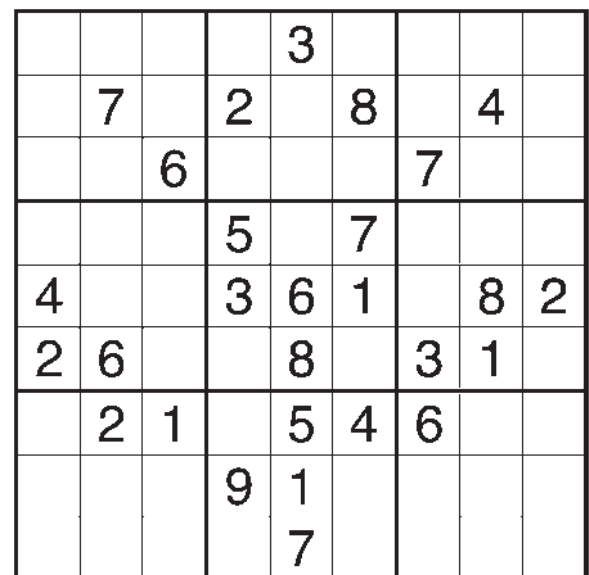
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

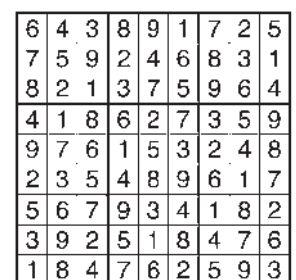


Difficulty Level ★★

3/04

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

3/07

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE FEAST OF PURIM

Solution: 12 letters



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Adar, Ancient, Annual, Bible, Ceremony, Charity, Cities, Costume, Dance, Delicacies, Donate, Eating, Festive, Food, Fun, Gifts, Give, Gladness, Heroes, Jewish, Joyous, Listen, Lots, March, Masks, Masquerading, Meal, Megillah, Merry, Money, Mordecai, Music, Observance, People, Prayer, Shushan, Sing, Story, Sunset, Synagogue, Victory, Vintz
Yesterday's Answer: Childbirth
Treasury 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 or 19 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (Contain 130 puzzles.)

3/4

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Dragic scores 21, Heat beat Suns 115-98 as tensions run high



MIAMI (AP)—Making no effort to downplay how much this win meant to him, Goran Dragic thanked the Miami Heat for his birthday present.

His birthday, by the way, is on May 6. Had it been any other opponent, Dragic said wouldn't have played through the back spasms that have pained him for a few days. But this was the Phoenix Suns, the team that called him selfish after trading him to Miami last month, and Dragic's new teammates wouldn't let him down.

Tyler Johnson scored a career-high 26 points off the bench, Dragic added 21 in just under 15 foul-filled minutes, and the Heat beat the Suns 115-98 on Monday night in a game that included two third-quarter altercations, three ejections, six player technicals and probably will merit some more punishments from the NBA office.

"It means a lot," Dragic said. "It was a tough game. You can see a lot of technicals, ejections, but it's a man's sport. I thought we played awesome tonight."

Hassan Whiteside finished with 17 points and 10 rebounds before getting ejected for Miami, which got 16 points and nine assists from Dwyane Wade.

P.J. Tucker had 20 points and 14 rebounds for the Suns, who got 20 points from Eric Bledsoe, 13 points apiece from Markieff Morris and Brandon Knight, 11 points from Marcus Morris and a 10-point, 11-rebound game from Alex Len.

Len and Markieff Morris were also tossed early. Markieff Morris was ejected for a



AP
Miami Heat guard Goran Dragic (7) shoots before being fouled by Phoenix Suns forward Marcus Morris (15) during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, Monday, March 2, 2015, in Miami.

flagrant-2 foul against Dragic, and Len and Whiteside both departed after scuffling under the Miami basket.

"I like the fight of this team," Wade said.

The story line was supposed to be Dragic vs. Suns.

It turned out to be much more.

Markieff Morris' ejection with 8:43 left came after referees—who took at least two long looks at the replays—determined that he shoved Dragic in the back on a fast break. Dragic landed hard on the wood behind the basket, remaining down briefly.

"We all know how Goran

plays—he throws that right arm out," Suns coach Jeff Hornacek said. "Markieff just went to block it and missed it. They said he hit him up in the neck area."

Added Markieff Morris: "It was a hard foul. It was a basketball play I thought, but the refs thought otherwise."

Whiteside and Len went at it about 4 minutes later, scuffling after Whiteside had a rebound and dunk.

"You're not going to come into Miami and bully us," said Whiteside, who contended that he was only retaliating—and also said he shouldn't have even done that.

And the Heat got another

scare later in the third when Johnson went down and stayed there, holding his left ankle. He returned to the game moments later, finishing 10 for 13 from the field.

Johnson's collegiate career high in four years at Fresno State was 25 points. He had 64 points in his NBA career entering Monday.

"I like to stay ready," Johnson said. "It's been the story of my whole life - whenever the opportunity's given you just stay ready and try to make the most of it."

Miami was down six in the early going, then—on the

strength of its highest-scoring quarter of the season—seemed to have command at halftime.

The Heat scored 39 points in the second, one more than they managed in the fourth against Atlanta to set their season best on Saturday, and went into the locker room with a 62-48 lead. Wade and Dragic combined for 17 points in the second and Miami led by as many as 18 before Knight and Marcus Morris made a pair of late 3s.

That all seemed long forgotten by the finish.

"You had two desperate teams feeling the weight of the season," Heat coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We came in feeling this was an absolute must-win and I'm sure they felt the same way."

Nets 110, Warriors 108

In New York, Jarrett Jack made a tiebreaking jumper with 1.1 seconds left as Brooklyn overcame Stephen Curry's stirring fourth-quarter comeback attempt to beat Golden State.

Curry brought the Warriors back from 10 points down with under 4 minutes left to tie it, but couldn't get a final shot off after Jack's jumper.

Curry finished with 26 points, 18 in the final period. Jack, however, calmly ran the clock down and shot over him as the Nets won their first game at home since Feb. 6.

Brook Lopez had 26 points and Deron Williams 22 for the Nets.

Andrew Bogut scored 16 for Golden State, but Klay Thompson shot 3 for 17. He was 1 of 9 on 3-pointers and finished with seven points.

Alan Anderson scored 16 for the Nets, who had played eight in a row on the road since beating New York at Barclays Center on Feb. 6, a 24-day stretch between home games that

ranked as the longest in franchise history.

Now the Warriors can't wait to get home, ending their six-game trip and a stretch of 10 road games out of 11.

Clippers 110, Timberwolves 105

In Minneapolis, Chris Paul had 26 points and 14 assists as Los Angeles allowed only one field goal in the fourth quarter to outlast Minnesota.

J.J. Redick scored 18 points before getting ejected in the fourth and DeAndre Jordan had 12 points and 18 rebounds, his ninth straight game with at least 15 boards. Glen Davis scored 12 points off the bench to help the Clippers get their seventh win in nine games.

Ricky Rubio had 18 points, 12 rebounds and 11 assists for the Timberwolves, who were missing starters Nikola Pekovic and Kevin Martin. Minnesota went 1 for 14 in the fourth quarter.

Gary Neal had 19 points and nine rebounds, but missed a forced 3-pointer with 9.3 seconds to go that would have tied the game.

Raptors 114, 76ers 103

In Philadelphia, DeMar DeRozan scored a season-high 35 points and Lou Williams had 21 as Toronto snapped a five-game losing streak with a win over Philadelphia.

Raptors coach Dwane Casey gave slumping All-Star and Philadelphia native Kyle Lowry another night off to rest. Even without their leading scorer in the lineup for the second straight game, the Raptors won for the first time since Feb. 20.

Patrick Patterson scored 15 points for Toronto, and Greivis Vasquez added 12.

Nerlens Noel scored 17 points on 7-for-7 shooting for the Sixers.

Mavericks 102, Pelicans 93

In Dallas, Richard Jefferson equaled his season high with 16 points, seven during a 16-0 Dallas run early in the third quarter, as the Mavericks raced past New Orleans.

The 34-year-old Jefferson made his fifth consecutive start in place of small forward Chandler Parsons, sidelined with a sprained left ankle, and hit five of six field goal attempts.

The Mavericks were led by Monta Ellis with 20 points. Rajon Rondo added 19 points, 15 in the first half.

The Pelicans, who entered on a five-game winning streak that equaled their longest in the last four years, were paced by Norris Cole with 19 points off the bench. Eric Gordon added 18 and Tyreke Evans 17.

New Orleans, seeking its first playoff berth since 2011, dropped a game behind eighth-place Oklahoma City in the West.

Jordan, other NBA owners join Forbes' billionaire list



AP
This is an April 16, 2014, file photo showing Charlotte Bobcats owner Michael Jordan watching during the first half of an NBA basketball game between the Bobcats and the Chicago Bulls in Charlotte, N.C.

\$21.5 billion. The net worth of NBA franchise values increased this past year after Ballmer bought the Clippers for \$2 billion.

Houston Rockets owner Leslie Alexander's net worth is listed at \$1.6 billion and Chicago Bulls' owner Jerry Reinsdorf is worth \$1.3 billion, according to the magazine.

Jordan and Reinsdorf are newcomers to the list while Alexander returns for the first time since 2007.

The 52-year-old Jordan, a Hall of Fame player who won

six NBA championships with the Bulls, reached billionaire status last June, according to the magazine. This is his first year on Forbes' annual list which typically is released in March.

Jordan acquired the majority stake in the Hornets in 2010 for \$175 million. Forbes last June listed Jordan's equity as owner of the Hornets is \$416 million and his net worth outside of the team to be \$600 million.

Among the other notables of sports-related billionaires is Seahawks owner Paul Allen, worth \$17.5 billion.

Some other NFL owners to make the list include Stephen Ross (Dolphins, \$6.5 billion) Stanley Kroenke (Rams, \$6.3 billion), Robert Kraft (Patriots, \$4.3 billion) and Jerry Jones, (Cowboys, \$4.2 billion).

NEW YORK (AP)—Michael Jordan and some other NBA owners have reached new heights, landing on Forbes world list of billionaires.

Forbes released its list on Monday and noted that Jordan's net

worth is estimated at \$1 billion, thanks to his well-timed investment in the Charlotte Hornets.

Steve Ballmer, who recently purchased the Los Angeles Clippers, tops the list of sports-related billionaires with a net worth of

Harden suspended 1 game for kicking James in the groin

NEW YORK (AP)—The NBA has suspended Houston star James Harden one game without pay for kicking LeBron James in the groin.

The All-Stars and Olympic teammates became tangled in

the third quarter of Houston's 105-103 victory over Cleveland on Sunday and Harden fell back to the court, then kicked his foot up into James.

Harden was given a flagrant foul 1 for the play, which the

league upgraded Monday to a flagrant 2, which would have been an automatic ejection if called at the time.

An angry James said after the game that Harden's kick was "not a basketball play" and that

the league would probably look at it.

Harden, the NBA's leading scorer and a top MVP candidate, won't play when the Rockets visit the Atlanta Hawks on Tuesday.

Harrington wins the Honda Classic in a playoff



PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla.

(AP)—Whether he was piling up majors or playing so poorly that he lost his PGA Tour card, Padraig Harrington never wavered from one goal in golf. Just get him anywhere near the lead with nine holes to play, and he would happily take his chances.

His caddie, Ronan Flood, reminded him of that Monday morning in the Honda Classic when Harrington was four shots behind at the turn.

"He said, 'Look, would you have taken this on Thursday?' And I said, 'Yes, that's what you want,'" Harrington said. "You want to be in contention with nine holes to go, because anything can happen coming down the stretch. And it did."

Not even Harrington could have written the script to his playoff victory at rain-soaked PGA National.

He ran off four straight birdies on the back nine to take the lead. He gave it back with a 5-iron into the water for double bogey on the par-3 17th. He made a 15-foot birdie putt to force a playoff. And given a shot at redemption, he hit 5-iron to 3 feet on the 17th to win on the second playoff hole when 21-year-old rookie Daniel Berger hit into the water and made double bogey.

Ten years after winning the Honda Classic for his first PGA Tour victory, Harrington won it again. It was his first PGA Tour victory since he won the 2008 PGA Championship at Oakland Hills for back-to-back majors.

Harrington lost his card last year and needed a sponsor's exemption to get in the Honda Classic. Now he's eligible for the Masters, The Players Championship and at least two World Golf Championships. He had fallen to No. 297 in the world. The 20th win of his career moved him to No. 82.

None of that mattered to him as he sat next to the trophy, Irish eyes smiling bright as ever.

"It's not about what it means to my career or what it means going forward," he said. "You don't win that often. When you win, make sure you enjoy it."

Harrington's birdie on the 18th was the most meaningful putt he has holed since one from the same distance for par on the 18th at Oakland Hills. It



Padraig Harrington holds the trophy after winning the Honda Classic golf tournament Monday, March 2, 2015, in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla. AP

gave him an even-par 70 and the second chance he needed in a playoff over Berger, the hometown rookie who finished birdie-birdie for a 6-under 64.

They finished at 6-under 274, the survivors of a day in which five players had a share of the lead at some point, and four of them found water at the worst time.

"It's one of those golf courses where you get yourself in contention, it is a little bit uncomfortable," Harrington said. "But that's the way it is."

That's how it was for Ian Poulter.

He was staked to a three-shot lead going into the final round, which began Sunday afternoon because of rain delays. Poulter hit five shots into the

water. One of them erased a three-shot lead. Another erased a two-shot lead. And when he hit two into the water on the 14th hole for triple bogey, he was done. Poulter finished birdie-birdie for a 75 to miss the playoff by one shot.

"It's just bitterly disappointing to put myself in the position I have, to play as well as I've played ... and a couple

of loose shots has cost me this tournament," Poulter said. "It's a shame to hand tournaments away. I've handed one away this week."

That's how it was for Patrick Reed.

He matched birdies with Harrington on the 14th hole and they were tied at 7 under when Reed hit his tee shot into the water and made double bogey. He bogeyed the next two holes, shot 73 and finished three shots behind.

"I had three holes that kind of bit me," he said.

And ultimately, that's how it was for Berger. He had a 15-foot birdie putt to win on the 18th in a playoff and narrowly missed. Then, he watched Harrington hit 5-iron to within 3 feet on the 17th on the next playoff hole.

"He's a great player, and that shot on 17 was kind of a dagger in the heart," Berger said.

Paul Casey, who lost in a playoff at Riviera last week, was tied for the lead until a bogey on the 14th hole. He never caught up, missing a 20-foot birdie putt on the 18th that would have got him into another playoff. He closed with a 68.

Casey tied for third with Russell Knox (68) and moved to No. 45, getting him into the World Golf Championship at Doral.

Phil Mickelson was four shots behind when the final round resumed Monday morning. He missed a 10-foot par putt at No. 9, didn't make a birdie and shot 73 to tie for 17th.

Harrington was five shots behind when he pulled his tee shot at No. 11, so far left it was on a muddied patch of grass that had been trampled by the gallery. He hit 4-iron at the right flag, over the water, to 15 feet for a birdie and a three-shot swing when Poulter hit into the water for double bogey.

That was the start of four straight birdies. That one shot might explain one of the more complex minds in golf. In the lead with a good lie, he sees trouble. From behind and in trouble, he only sees opportunity.

"I'm not going to win the tournament unless I take it on," he said.

With a one-shot lead on the 17th hole in regulation, he tried not to make a mistake and hit in the water. In a playoff on the 17th, he fired at the flag.

"Believe it or not," he said with a smile, "when I get in contention I can still hit the shots."

By **BARRY WILNER**
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER



NFL games have begun for 2015.

Don't bother checking out your Sunday Ticket, though. This is not football the teams are playing, it's tag.

Monday was the deadline for franchises to decide whether to hold onto key players who are pending free agents by giving them the franchise or transition tag. The alternative: letting them hit the open market on March 10.

A lot more goes into tagging than simply wanting to hold on to a stand-out or a budding star. There's nearly as much game-planning for it as there is for an opponent during the season.

Teams ask themselves:

-What position does he play and how much is the tag for that position?

-Should we use the exclusive franchise tag, when no other team can approach the player? Or go with the

To tag or not to tag an NFL quandary

non-exclusive, allowing other teams to pursue the player, but with the original team able to match any offer, or decline and gain two first-round draft picks?

-Should we go with the lower transition tag, in which other teams can set the market for a player and if the contract is not matched, there is no compensation when the player walks?

-What is our salary cap situation? Does it make sense to commit so much money to one player? Is he that much of a difference maker?

This year, the Lions decided not to tag Ndamukong Suh, an All-Pro defensive tackle and, when on his game, a wrecking ball on the field. Among the reasons could be his penchant for unacceptable on-field behavior—there's always the chance Suh could go off during a game and wind up with a suspension for his actions.

More likely, Detroit looked at the sal-

ary cap implications of tagging Suh for nearly a \$27-million cap hit because of his previous contract restructuring. The Lions felt adding to the huge price tags on receiver Calvin Johnson and quarterback Matthew Stafford would preclude the team from improvements in several other areas.

No team wants to commit more than 30 percent of its cap spending to three players—unless those players have won championships for the franchise. Most teams prefer to stay under 25 percent for its top three players. Stafford has a salary cap hit of \$17.7 million in 2015, and Johnson is at \$20.5 million.

Detroit still might sign Suh to a long-term deal, and it could avoid the hefty one-year cap hit with some creativity over a span of a few seasons. That room for creativity doesn't exist with franchise-tagged players.

Kansas City bit hard and put the

non-exclusive tag on linebacker Justin Houston. Except Houston might want to be considered a defensive end: the tag at that position is nearly \$1.7 million higher.

While the Chiefs negotiate with Houston's agents, they also must find ways to trim salaries. That shouldn't be too difficult; much harder will be dealing with a potentially long holdout by Houston if the sides can't agree on which position the league's leading sackmaster plays. And how much he is worth.

The Giants had an easier decision in franchising defensive end Jason Pierre-Paul. When healthy and motivated, he's a force, as his 12 1/2 sacks and 21 quarterback hits for a weak defense showed in 2014. He also had 16 1/2 sacks in 2011, and is only 26.

With Steve Spagnuolo returning as defensive coordinator, New York will build again around the pass rush.

Pierre-Paul is the foundation.

Denver also had little choice with tagging receiver Demaryius Thomas at \$12.823 million. With Peyton Manning likely to return this season, the Broncos had no option but to keep his top target—particularly with tight end Julius Thomas and wideout Wes Welker unsigned.

It's also more probable the Broncos can get a long-term deal done with Thomas—the deadline is July 15—and they have some flexibility under the salary cap, with around \$150 million available thanks to unspent carryover money from 2014.

Dallas, as expected, tagged its All-Pro receiver, Dez Bryant. The Cowboys are in a tight spot because they have little maneuverability for 2015 if they can't get a long-term agreement with Bryant. Failing to do so could mean losing AP Offensive Player of the Year DeMarco Murray, the league's top running back—just when the Cowboys have become a championship threat again.

44 join junior singles event of PIC tennis tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Forty-four players are entered in the junior singles event of the 15th PIC Tennis Championships, which will kick off this weekend at the Pacific Islands Club hard courts.

The boys U14 singles drew the most participants with



12. Robbie Schorr, who won last month's division crown in the Coconut Tennis Classic, is seeded first in the group, while Vincent Tudela is ranked second. Completing the list are Hyen Woo Chin, Jeffrey Seo, Ken Song, Allan Lee, Clayton Izuka, Haruya Eda, A.J. Hudkins, Tony Kim, Steven Goodwin, and Joshua Abragan.

Schorr, Tudela, Kim, and Song drew byes in the first round, while the opening round pairings will feature Chin vs. Seo, Lee vs. Izuka, Eda vs. Hudkins, and Goodwin vs. Abragan.

In the girls U14 singles, only six will contest the championship. Mimi Sakano leads the list, which also includes Grace Choi, Asia Raulerson, Julia Ishikawa, and Maliwa Miyawaki. Sakano and Miyawaki are the Top 2 seeds and automatically advanced to the semis. Choi and Raulerson will collide for the other semis berth in the top half of the bracket, while Kaga and Ishikawa will duel for the last Final Four ticket in the bottom half.

In the boys U18 singles, a round-robin format will be in effect as only Colin Ramsey, Woon Sun Cho, and Luther Lizama are entered in the event.

In the girls U18 singles, a regular draw will be implemented with seven players fighting for the division crown. Carol Lee and Mikayla Lopez, the finalists in last month's Coconut Tennis Classic, are favored in the division and will battle the championship against Isabel Heras, Julia Ishikawa, Tania Tan, Negahr Rastguiry, and Ami Tsukagoshi.

The boys U12 singles also lured seven players with Ji Min Woo earning a bye in the first round. The six remaining players will have their first game this Friday and Saturday and pairings are as follows: Rintaryo Miyawaki vs. Chris Kim; Daniel Kang vs. Sean Lee; and Paik Seung Jin vs. Aditya Rai.

In the girls U12 singles, Eri Ortega and Maayo Sato will kick off the competition this

Friday when they square off at 3pm. The other first round matches will have Riko Ojima facing Ellie Epley, Tiara Imai

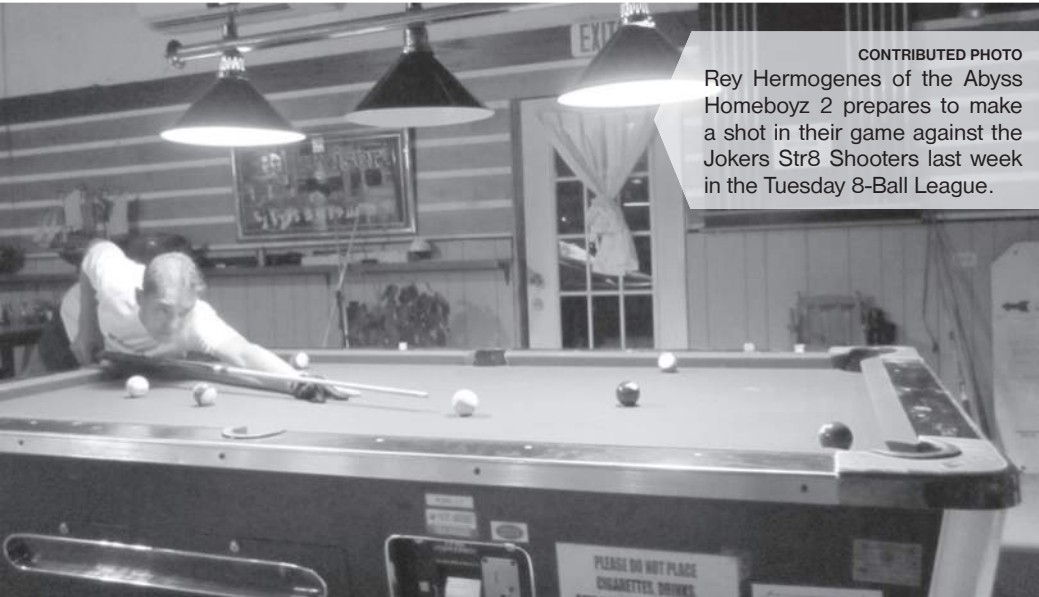
challenging Maria Gregoire, and Soleil Lamar meeting Coume Kaga. Erika Tuttle is the top seed in the draw and got a

bye in the first round. Meanwhile, draws in the doubles and adults singles will be reported later this week.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Luther Lizama, seen here returning a shot to Colin Ramsey in last month's Coconut Tennis Classic at the AMP tennis courts, is among the junior players competing in this weekend's 15th PIC Tennis Championships.

Close finishes in Week 4 of Thursday billiards



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Rey Hermogenes of the Abyss Homeboyz 2 prepares to make a shot in their game against the Jokers Str8 Shooters last week in the Tuesday 8-Ball League.

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Four of the five matchups played in the Budweiser-Saipan Billiards Association Open 8-Ball Thursday League last week had to be decided in the final partner's event with the Abyss Rack 'N' Roll continued to enjoy the top view.



The Rack 'N' Roll, Wild Bill's, Route33 Alamo Car Rental, and Jonny's Team SCS each scored 8-7 wins over the Smoke Pub Magic 8 Ball, Abyss Titans, Jokers Homeboyz, and the Barcode Breakers in separate contests held in various bars on the island.

The win by the Rack 'N' Roll

coupled by a loss by the Homeboyz had them enjoying a 20-10 edge over their closest pursuer's 18-12 slate in the standings. Wild Bill's and the Barcode Hobbies Deadshot are tied from third to fourth with 17-13 cards.

Only the Jokers Wonderpool Aces had the most lopsided victory, an 11-4 thrashing of the Barcode Hobbies Deadshot.

In the Tuesday League, Smoke Pub Armatech Hustlers scored a 10-5 decision over archrival Jokers IT&E Voyagers, while the Jokers Str8 Shooters and the Abyss Crazy 8 pulled off similar 8-7 wins over the Abyss Homeboyz 2 and the Smoke Pub Destroyers.

The Hustlers, despite the loss

to the Voyagers, remained on top of the standings with a 21-9 record, while the Hustlers and the Crazy 8 are in joint second to third with even 15-15 records.

Thursday action will see the Breakers facing the Magic 8 Ball, the Wonderpool Aces host Team SCS, the Titans take on sister team Rack 'N' Roll, the Homeboyz visit Wild Bill's, and the Deadshot battle Alamo Car Rental.

Matches in the Tuesday League were still being played at press time. The Voyagers were battling the Crazy 8, the Str8 Shooters were playing the Destroyers, and the Homeboyz 2 visited the Hustlers.

PRESTLEY

From Page 28

cided to give it a try.

On race day, he missed the briefing and was greeted by around 800 participants getting ready to plunge into the waters off Dungaree Beach.

TOP

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and Central Oklahoma (624), and fourth placer University of Redlands (639).

Anna Arrese Cortadellas of the Oklahoma Christian University Eagles and Central Oklahoma's Maria Souvannasing finished tied on top with 148s and was just one shot ahead of Sanchez.

CSU-Pueblo's Samantha Geisick (173) finished tied for 40th, while Natasha Navarro (175) ended up at joint 42nd and Megan McCutcheon (190) landed at 63rd spot.

Kim, Sanchez, and the rest of the Wolf Pack will take a two-week break before heading to Wichita Falls, Texas for the Midwestern State Invitational from March 16 to 17.

"There was some current during the swim, but no waves or chop to deal with. I did get a jellyfish sting on my hand, but nothing major," the 40-year-old triathlete said.

"The bike course was a little exposed to cross-winds so my strategy was just to stay tucked and aero and find a pace that I could maintain for an hour. Luckily, I didn't have any mechanical issues or flat tires despite some rugged sec-

tions of road that took a chunk out of my rear tire. I didn't notice it until after the race though, so it was a non-issue. In the run, the only problem was the heat, but I'm used to that from training on Saipan. I finished 3rd in the 40-45 age group, which is always one of the most competitive age categories. The Bike King/Tri United people were extremely nice and I hope more Saipan people come to try their rac-

es," he added.

After the Tri United 1, up next for Prestley is the Century Tuna Ironman 70.3, the tournament that brought the Saipan bet to Subic. The competition has a half-Ironman course and will be held on March 8.

"It a longer half-Ironman distance race that will have much more climbing and will attract a lot more pros because it's an Ironman branded event," Prestley said.

MAWATI

From Page 28

Ada and Kelvin Fital teaming up in the recovery.

Mawati lost the big lead, as it decided to play passive basketball, wasting a lot of time dribbling the ball instead of setting up its offense and going for the kill. They were held scoreless in the first eight minutes of the fourth period before Webb Gontar hit a double-clutch shot against a phalanx of The Compound defenders to end the drought.

Gontar also drilled the other basket for Mawati in the fourth off his reverse layup to seal the win, with about one minute left

on the clock.

The Compound fell short in its rally as it turned the ball over many times past in the last five minutes of the match. Three successive baskets from Fital were not enough complete their comeback bid, as time was not on their side. An Ada layup at the buzzer pegged the final score.

Gontar paced Mawati with his 12 points, while Harris Enriquez chipped in 10. Ada led all scorers with his 22 markers.

Meanwhile, in the first game, Jake's Catering took the solo lead in the eight-team league after dominating Eye Sees, 79-67.

Jake's Catering improved its record to 3-0, one win ahead of

SSFm/New Garapan market, while Eye Sees dropped to third with its 2-1 mark.

Jake's Catering led from start to finish and earned twin digit spread at the end of the first three quarters with Ronnel Gamboa anchoring the team's offense.

Gamboa scored 21 points and had four triples, while Gerald Rivera added 19. Melvin Rejano and Meljun Capalad were the two other double-figure scorers for Jake's Catering, contributing 14 and 10, respectively. Jakes Catering hit eight treys against none from Eye Sees, which leaned on the 19 points of Angelo Fernando.

Prestley is using the two competitions in the Philippines to prepare for this month's XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman Triathlon.

"I hope that both of these races will prepare me for the Tagaman and XTERRA Saipan. I'll be entering the long course (70.3/half-iron distance) race for the Tagaman and trying to qualify for Maui again during the XTERRA Saipan," he said.

First Game

Jake's Catering 79 – Gamboa 21, Rivera 19, Rejano 14, M. Capalad 10, Manalo 9, Garcia 3, Gunnacao 2.

Eye Sees 67 – Fernando 19, Directo 16, Lim 14, Manzano 10, Espinosa 4, Soriano 2.

Scoring by quarters: 23-12, 38-21, 55-41, 79-67.

Second Game

Mawati 56 – Gontar 12, Enriquez 10, Rejano 9, Larot 8, Nonato 5, Demapan 5, Rena 2.

The Compound 50 – Ada 22, Fital 13, Camacho 11, Saures 4.

Scoring by quarters: 18-12, 39-18, 52-28, 56-50.

NBA STANDINGS				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	38	22	.633	—
Brooklyn	25	33	.431	12
Boston	23	34	.404	13½
Philadelphia	13	47	.217	25
New York	12	46	.207	25
Southeast Division				
Atlanta	47	12	.797	—
Washington	34	26	.567	13½
Miami	26	33	.441	21
Charlotte	24	33	.421	22
Orlando	19	42	.311	29
Central Division				
Chicago	37	23	.617	—
Cleveland	37	24	.607	½
Milwaukee	32	27	.542	4½
Indiana	25	34	.424	11½
Detroit	23	36	.390	13½
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
Southwest Division				
Memphis	42	16	.724	—
Houston	41	18	.695	1½
Dallas	40	22	.645	4
San Antonio	36	23	.610	6½
New Orleans	32	28	.533	11
Northwest Division				
Portland	39	19	.672	—
Oklahoma City	33	27	.550	7
Utah	23	35	.397	16
Denver	20	39	.339	19½
Minnesota	13	46	.220	26½
Pacific Division				
Golden State	46	12	.793	—
L.A. Clippers	40	21	.656	7½
Phoenix	31	30	.508	16½
Sacramento	20	37	.351	25½
L.A. Lakers	16	42	.276	30
BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				

NMSA Annual Awards Banquet

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Male Student Athlete of the Year Robbie Schorr poses with his award and life-sized cutout during the NMSA Annual Awards Banquet held last Thursday at the Seaside Hall of Kanoa Resort.



Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Maggie Sablan delivers a brief message to attendees of the awards banquet, while NMSA president Michael White and secretary general Rose Igitol look on.



Beo Ngirchongor smiles to the camera after receiving the Male Athlete of the Year plum.



Female Athlete of the Year Rachel Abrams checks out her life-sized cutout.



The monthly winners for the Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMSA Student Athlete contest pose for a group photo. Dylan Ackerman, second right front row, represented sister Tammy.



Male Student Athlete of the Month winners pose for a photo. Tsunami Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura, front row fourth right, received the award for his son Kensuke.



Some of the Male Athlete of the Month awardees pose for a group photo.



Female Student Athlete of the Year Gabrielle Race is all smiles after getting her award.



Tan Siu Lin Foundation manager Maggie Sablan hands Male Student Athlete of the Year Robbie Schorr his prize package.



Dragic scores 21, Heat beat Suns 115-98 as tensions run high

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44 join junior singles event of PIC tennis tourney

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28 WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4, 2015

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Prestley breaks PBT in PH triathlon



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan triathlete Peter Prestley set a new personal best time in Olympic distance after competing in Tri United 1 last Sunday in Subic, Zambales in the Philippines.

He completed the 1.5-kilometer swim, 40K bike, and 10K run in 2:23:24, shattering the 2:28:47 he posted in last year's Pacific Island Triathlon Championships held in Guam. Prestley had split times of 28:42 in the swim leg and 1:07:24 and 46:18 in the bike and run parts, respectively.

Besides earning a new PBT, the Saipan triathlete also made it to the podium in the 40 to 45 age groups, as he finished third in his division. Trimac's Lee Galdonez (2:17:45) and Fitness First's Peter McMeekin (2:22:56) took the Top 2 finish in the age group, which had eight participants, while Australia's Mitch Robin was the over-

all top finisher of the race after clocking in at 1:55:42.

"The Tri United 1 course was relatively flat which made it a



really fast race," said Prestley, who was a last-minute entry in the competition as he was in Subic for another event, but found out about the race and de-

See PRESTLEY on Page 26

Mawati enters win column

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Mawati barged into the win column in the 2015 DLX Invitational Basketball League after outclassing The Compound, 56-50, last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.

Mawati built enough cushion in the third quarter to survive The Compound's fourth-quarter rally and snap its two-game losing skid. The Compound

remained winless in three games.

Despite the loss, The Compound put up a gallant fight, preventing Mawati from easing its way to victory after the latter erected a 24-point advantage at the end of the third, 52-28. The Compound managed to move within 10, 52-42, midway in the second half with Richard

See MAWATI on Page 26



Top 10 finish for Leina, Lady T-Wolves 5th

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

Saipan native Leina Kim ended up tied for 10th, while senior Julie Sanchez had her third top five finish this season to help the Colorado State University-Pueblo Lady ThunderWolves to joint fifth in the Las Vegas Desert Classic.

According to the CSU-Pueblo Lady ThunderWolves

website, Kim tallied a two-day total of 13-over 157 held last March 1 and 2 at the Paiute Golf Resort in Las Vegas, Nevada to join University of Missouri-St. Louis Tritons' Joana Yanez at 10th place.

The Pete Dye-designed course proved to be challenging for the CSU-Pueblo junior Kim as she opened the

two-day event with a 6-over 72 before concluding with a 7-over 72 for that 157 total.

Kim said that the team was forced to practice in an indoor driving range before they left for Las Vegas due to snow.

"We're quite lucky toward the beginning of the year with

amazing golf weather but the past week has been nothing but snow. We had to stay indoors and hit straight to a net. It's not ideal but it's better than nothing," said Kim, who still has a year of eligibility left.

Sanchez, who had a tournament best five birdies, had a closing 1-under 71 for a two-day haul of 5-over 149 to push her from seventh to third. She limped with a 6-over 78 on the opening round.

It was the third highest finish for CSU-Pueblo in the 2014-2015 season as the Wolf Pack's 654 tally landed them at fifth behind tournament winner Oklahoma Christian (623), runners-up Midwestern State

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CSU-PUEBLO
Leina Kim, second right, and the CSU-Pueblo Lady ThunderWolves finished tied for fifth place after the two-day Las Vegas Desert Classic held at the Paiute Golf Resort in Nevada.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mawati's Arjay Nonato pulls up for a floater against The Compound's Kelvin Fitial, while Rainier Deleon Guerrero comes in late for help defense during the fourth quarter of their game in the DLX caging last Monday night at the Gualo Rai Basketball Court.